



MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

annual

2019-2020

3rd Grade



@mercerislandschooldistrict



@mercerislandsd



mercer_island_school_district



mercerislandschools.org

THE MERCER ISLAND school board OF DIRECTORS

Learn more at: mercerislandschools.org/board

The Mercer Island School District Board of Directors members are elected to four-year terms. Their 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.



David D'Souza
2019 - 2023



Maggie Tai Tucker
2019 - 2023



Tam Dinh
2019 - 2023



Deborah Lurie
2017 - 2021



Brian Giannini Upton
2017 - 2021



Superintendent
Donna Colosky
Secretary of the
School Board

superintendent

DONNA Colosky's

On behalf of the Mercer Island School District's Board of Directors, our teachers, staff and students, I am pleased to present the 2019-20 Annual Report to the MI community.

The cover of this annual report symbolizes perfectly the 2019-20 school year and beyond. In February we were celebrating "Kindness Matters," spreading random acts of kindness and joy across the Island. A month later, the stay-at-home order transitioned the District overnight into remote learning.

It certainly wasn't perfect, but we came together as we always do as Islanders and kept true to our values, vision and mission with students as the priority. Thanks to our community's support of our Educational Maintenance and Operations and Capital levies, we ensured our students had needed access to technology and our schools would be ready with personal protective equipment for their eventual return.

The most enduring memory of last spring was our Mercer Island High School Class of 2020 driving through their commencement in a June rainstorm, accepting their diplomas while wearing caps, gowns and masks, their pictures lining the driveway.

Nine months after we pivoted to remote learning, this pandemic continues to challenge us as we implement our reopening plan to return to in-person learning. The first priority of our plan is to return our youngest learners and small groups of our highest-risk students to in-person learning. As the virus curve is flattened, we continue to plan for safe in-person learning for all students. We remain grateful for your support of our students and staff.

Sincerely, *Donna Colosky* Superintendent

nesses

The Mercer Island PTA Council teamed up with its local PTA/PTSA members to create outdoor banners that display messages of hope and strength during the COVID-19 school closure. The banner designs are inspired by the "World of Hearts" movement, which encourages families to post paper hearts in their windows to spread joy and positivity to others during the pandemic.

West Mercer Elementary fifth graders in Kirsten Bourke's and Julie Langley's classes went on a field trip to Northwest Harvest, learning more about this organization that serves 375 food banks. The students learned about food insecurity and the statistics in our region about hunger. Then they got to help do something about it, bagging 1,200 pounds of food!



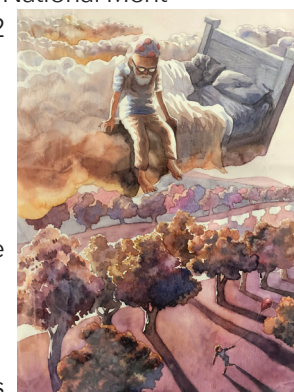
points of pride

Mercer Island High School was again honored as one of the Best High Schools in America by U.S. News & World Report. MIHS was also chosen as one of the top STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) schools in America by Newsweek magazine.

Nine Mercer Island High School students have been announced as semifinalists in the 2020-2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are Annika Bhananaker, Nathanael Cadicamo, Caden Gradek, Jacob Groszof, Wesley Ho, William Spencer, Kevin Wang, Shoko Wichman and Emily Yang. MIHS Principal Walter Kelly and members of the high school administrative team visited each semifinalist's home to congratulate them. These seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$32 million that will be awarded next spring.

WeLoveMI is a COVID-19 relief campaign created by the Mercer Island Community Fund in collaboration with Mercer Trade Inc., (the "company" formed by the MIHS International Entrepreneurship class), the MI Chamber of Commerce and community leaders to inspire Islanders to come together to support the community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to help our friends and neighbors by supporting the nonprofits and businesses that serve our island.

MIHS student Zitong Wang won a second place national Award of Excellence in the PTSA Reflections competition for High School Visual Arts. The national theme for 2019-2020 was "Look Within."



KMIH 88.9 The Bridge student staff were honored with 39 nominations for Golden Microphone awards from the Intercollegiate Broadcasting Conference, including for the first time a nomination for best high school station in the nation.

Advanced drama students from MIHS competed and won honors in the Washington State Thespians Northwest Regionals individual events competition.

Ethan Evans of MIHS won the 44th Annual Washington Junior Golf Association (WJGA) State Boys' Championship in Spokane. Evans shot a three-day total of 8-under par 206 to win by three shots.

The MIHS mock trial team competed in the Empire Mock Trial competition in San Francisco. Empire Mock Trial is an international

mock trial competition attended by more than 5,000 students from 37 states and seven countries. Student Elizabeth Bertram received an award for Outstanding Lawyer.

The MIHS boys swim and dive team won the 2020 3A State Championship, a total team effort that saw 13 swimmers scoring points. It was the Islanders' first state title since 2014.





funda

These five student-focused Fundamentals (goals) are at the heart of the District's values, vision and mission, centered on students as the priority and educating the whole child. The Fundamentals make up Board Policy 0001 and are reviewed annually for progress by the School Board, using qualitative and quantitative indicators. Learn more at mercerislandschools.org.

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.

Partnership between Mercer Island School District and Mercer Island Youth and Family Services (YFS). Each school in MISD has a YFS mental health counselor to provide social-emotional support, education and enhancement to students as well as consultation to staff, parents and administrators. At the elementary level, YFS counselors meet with student groups daily to offer support. Counselors also support new students and offer small-group sessions for students working through family divorce, death, and substance abuse.



The Great Kindness Challenge - All MISD schools participated in a Kindness Matters month during January and February 2020. At the heart of the Great Kindness Challenge is the simple belief that kindness is a positive and powerful force that, when repeated, is habit-forming and becomes common practice. Some of the events leading up to and during the Great Kindness Challenge included: Martin Luther King Jr. and Great Kindness kick-off assemblies, student kindness challenges to perform and document 20 to 50 acts of kindness in one week, inspirational morning announcements and kindness quotes, "Let Kindness Shine" spirit days, and other kindness-related activities supported by PTAs and student councils.

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.

The MIHS Student Senate was successfully launched and implemented. The goal of the Senate is to provide leadership and input on diverse topics, amplifying student voices surrounding important issues of day-to-day life at MIHS. Students set up the process for nominating Senators from each Islander Hour class throughout the school. Since the inception of the Senate, student representatives meet once a month. A variety of topics are discussed at these meetings. This group encompasses decision-making on student-driven initiatives as well as school-wide initiatives.

mentals

3

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

Spanish Story Project - Bringing culture to life is a major focus for MIHS Spanish teachers Becca Nitz and Kelsey Cochran. Students in MIHS Spanish 3 classes developed their emotional intelligence and empathy as they wrote and illustrated books for elementary students at Northwood. Nitz and Cochran partnered with Lyndsey Daniels, the Spanish teacher at Northwood, to design a unit that would be mutually beneficial to both the high school students in their study of the two past tenses and Daniels' elementary students' early learning of Spanish. The final product was a storybook with text and images; many of the books were electronic, built in the Book Creator platform. Once the books were finished, Cochran's and Nitz's students traveled to Northwood to read their stories to Daniels' students and Daniels' students sang a Spanish song for the high school students.

4

Engage students in analytical and critical thinking in order to identify and address global concerns.



Islander Middle School Social Justice Elective - Race/Ethnicity, Sex/Gender, Sexual Identity: This course examines the role identity and privilege play in everyone's lives, specifically examining the areas of race/ethnicity, sex/gender and sexual identity. The class gives students a chance to learn about what goes on in our country, and to empathize with people from many different backgrounds—starting with the other students in the class. Students have opportunities to create group projects, conduct individual investigations, and participate in many group discussions about society and our place in it.

5

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

MIHS Unified Sports and Activities - This is an inclusive program that encourages competitive involvement from students of all ability levels. Mercer Island High School students, with and without disabilities, compete together to build inclusive teams and lasting friendships. Mercer Island High School students participated in basketball, soccer and robotics. Two of the most notable events were the fall Unified flag football game and winter Unified basketball game. Both events were well attended by MIHS students, staff, and district office personnel. The MIHS pep band and student commentators narrated the events through the student radio station, KMIH 88.9 The Bridge.



district

WHO WE ARE

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

ENROLLMENT (October 2020)

Districtwide.....	4,125
Island Park.....	367
Lakeridge.....	405
Northwood.....	374
West Mercer.....	428
Islander Middle School.....	1,031
Mercer Island High School & Crest Learning Center.....	1,520
Running Start.....	75
MI Online.....	183

DEMOGRAPHICS

STUDENT ETHNICITY

American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0%
Asian	22.7%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander..	0.2%
Black/African American.....	0.8%
Hispanic/Latino.....	4.9%
Two or more races.....	11.6%
White.....	59.8%

STAFF ETHNICITY

American Indian/Alaska Native	0.0%
Asian	10.1%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander..	0.7%
Black/African American.....	2.7%
Hispanic/Latino.....	3.0%
Two or more races.....	1.9%
White.....	81.2%

STUDENT PROGRAMS

Free/reduced price meals.....	3.9%
Students with Disabilities.....	11.3%
English Language Learners.....	3.8%



Qi Li's winning design



logo adoption

The Mercer Island School District has introduced a new logo, which will replace the one used for many years.

It was the goal from the beginning of this process of creating a new identity that it reflect the MISD's

core values, vision and mission.

In keeping with students as the priority, the new logo was designed by MIHS senior Qi Li, who says the hands around the outline of the Island are the focal point to reflect the caring Island community.

Qi is a student in Jessica Shideler's graphic design class at the high school, and his design was chosen from more than 70 submitted by high school students. The District worked with designer Ann Rhodes to refine Qi's original design into the final version.



CLASS OF 2020 COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

Attending in-state colleges.....	41.6%
Attending out-of-state colleges.....	58.4%
Attending two-year colleges.....	8.7%
Attending other programs	6.3%
Number of college/universities Class of 2020 is attending.....	132
Percentage attending 4 yr colleges	85.9%

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

National Merit Semifinalists	13
National Merit Commended Scholars	25

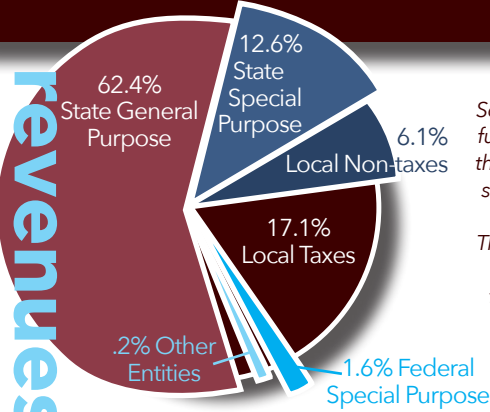
APTEST RESULTS

Students tested	474
AP tests taken	1,079
AP scores 3 and above	431
AP Scholars	82
AP Scholars With Honor.....	41
AP Scholars With Distinction.....	74
AP National Scholars	12

2020

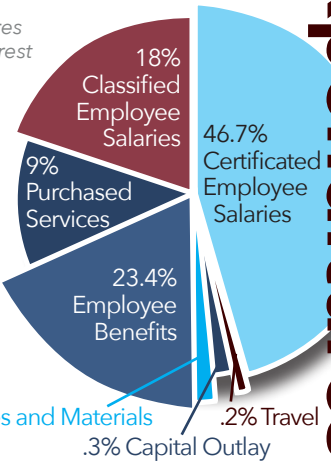
financial STEWARDSHIP

The District is grateful to Island voters for their support of local levies. The general fund relies on the Educational Maintenance and Operations levy to provide for additional staffing for class size reduction, special education, the seven-period day and K-5 Spanish. This year more than \$250,000 in local levy funds were spent on COVID-19 preparedness. The Capital Projects levy is used to maintain buildings, facility planning and instructional technology. The Transportation Vehicle levy is used to buy buses and the Debt Service levy is used to pay interest and principal on the outstanding bonds approved by the community.



Revenues and expenditures are rounded off to the nearest tenth of a percent.

Mercer Island students benefit from generous annual donations to the PTA/PTSA's 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
2019-2020
Annual Report
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pathfinder awards

This year's fifth Annual Mercer Island School District's Pathfinder Awards were presented to graduates whose achievements, strength of character, and citizenship inspire and challenge today's youth to make significant contributions to humankind. Seventeen alumni have now been recognized since the awards began in 2016.



Robin Bennett, CLASS OF 1977 Inspired by her MIHS biology teacher, Bill Tougaw, Bennett was among the first graduates of the genetic counseling training program at Sarah Lawrence College. She was the first certified genetic counselor at the UW Medical Center, where she continues to work 35 years later as senior genetic counselor and manager of the Genetic Medicine Clinic. She is a national and international leader in the field of genetic counseling, developing genetic counseling practice recommendations, including the criteria for a genetic family history that are now the world standard. She served as president of the National Society of Genetic Counselors and is the first genetic counselor to receive a faculty title in the UW School of Medicine, where she is now a clinical professor. She is the acting director of the new Master's in Genetic Counseling program being developed in the University of Washington School of Medicine.



Steve Hawes, CLASS OF 1968 Steve Hawes' name remains etched throughout the record book of the Mercer Island High School boys basketball program. His records include most points in a game (49), most rebounds in a game (40), career rebounds, rebounds in a season and rebounds/game. He averaged 28 points/game and 20 rebounds/game his senior season, the first year for coach Ed Pepple. Hawes went on to star at the University of Washington, averaging 20 points and earning induction into the Husky Hall of Fame and the Pacific-10 Conference Hall of Honor. He played overseas in Italy before beginning his NBA career in 1974 with the Houston Rockets, then played one season with Portland and seven with Atlanta before finishing his career with the Seattle SuperSonics. Hawes served as an assistant coach at Seattle Pacific, Seattle University and UW. He operated Advent Print Resources, and and coached in high school programs in the Seattle area.

Nominations for the 2021 Pathfinder Awards close January 31, 2021. To nominate a distinguished MIHS graduate, visit mercerislandschools.org/alumni.

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.

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