

# Connectivity

Puyallup School District Family News: April 8

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## Upcoming Dates:

- April 9: Special School Board Meeting
- April 12-16: No School - Spring Break  
(ESC closed Mon.-Fri.; EdTech closed Thurs. & Fri.)
- April 15: Everyone 16 and older eligible for COVID-19 vaccine
- April 23: School Board Work Session
- April 27: [In-person Schedule Increase](#) for Grades 2 and 3

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## Superintendent Message

Everyone likes to feel valued and appreciated for hard work. And people have been working harder than ever. This includes staff, students, families, and community members who are working together in schools to help further our mission of excellence. For some, it's a job; for others, it's a calling.

Although recognition of volunteers is an ongoing process, Public School Volunteer Week occurring April 19-23 provides another opportunity to show appreciation for the service that our volunteers

provide. From classroom helpers and parent group volunteers, to coaching and community involvement, volunteers make such a difference in the lives of students by offering their time, energy, and support. Please join with me in recognizing and celebrating their efforts this month.



While the pandemic halted many in-school experiences this year, schools still found creative ways to keep students, families, and community members engaged with opportunities to serve. Thank you to our 3,469 volunteers who are currently approved to [support Puyallup students through volunteer activities](#). You matter. Your efforts help us promote positive well-being with those we serve.

Community Service Awards were recently presented during the [15th annual Communities in Schools of Puyallup 'Friendraiser' Event](#) held virtually last month. In recognizing all volunteers, I especially would like to highlight the individuals presented with the following awards:

- Student Citizen of the Year Award: Yahir Gonzalez
- Volunteer Citizen of the Year: Lin Miller
- Educator Citizen of the Year Award: Nancy Kreuger
- Community Partner of the Year Award: All Saints Community Services

As we enter into Spring Break, please take the time to rest and recharge. Service is hard work. By continuing to work together, we are making a difference in the lives of our students and helping build a stronger community.

## Academic and Wellness Recovery Plans

We realize that the COVID-19 pandemic has directly impacted student learning and well-being. As a result, we are in the process of determining what type of additional support students may need over the next three school years. This plan will include learning loss and credit retrieval opportunities, remote learning options for fall, mental health supports, and more.



Survey feedback from 3,047 staff and family members via the Student Academic and Wellness Plan Survey showed the majority of respondents support the district allocating resources to mental health services and learning loss supports.

This work will continue to evolve as we address student needs due to the closure and extended time in remote learning.

## Summer School Half-Day Program

Summer Learning Academy, a regionalized summer school half-day program, will be offered to students identified as needing academic support or credit retrieval. Each region in the district will offer this program at one high school, one junior high school, and one elementary school per region. The half-day, morning program will be held July 6 –



skills in grades 7-8, and credit retrieval in grades 9-12. The program will offer transportation and options to obtain meals.

District directors, school administrators, and teachers will identify students for Summer Learning Academy by analyzing district and school-based assessment measures. Families of identified students will be invited to participate in May. Summer Learning Academy will include the Extended School Year (ESY) program for selected students with Individualized Education Plans.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Available for Those Ages 16 and Up

Information [released by the WA State Department of Health](#) on April 1 states that everyone ages 16 and older who want a COVID-19 vaccine will be eligible to receive one starting April 15. Vaccine allocations have continued to increase, allowing the state to open eligibility sooner than expected to help stop the spread of the virus.



Currently Pfizer-BioNTech is the only COVID-19 vaccine authorized for people 16 years of age and older. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson are authorized for people 18 and older. Those age 16 or 17 [may need consent from a parent or guardian](#) to get the vaccine.

## Congratulations New National Board Certified Teachers

Two Puyallup educators have earned National Board Certification — one of the highest recognitions in the education profession — this past year.



- Brittney Burchiel, Generalist/Middle Childhood, Edgerton Elementary
- Jamie Lindberg, Generalist/Early Childhood, Maplewood Elementary

The Puyallup School Board recognized Burchiel and Lindberg at its April 5 meeting. They were praised for their hard work and perseverance this year, despite the pandemic.

Brittney and Jamie join with over 1,400 teachers statewide, and over 11,000 nationally in certification. Washington has the third largest group of National Board Certified teachers in the nation.

National Board Certification is achieved upon successful completion of a voluntary assessment program designed to recognize effective and accomplished teachers who meet high standards based on what teachers should know and be able to do.

Similar to professional certification in fields such as medicine, National Board Certified teachers demonstrate that their teaching meets the profession's standards for accomplished practice through a rigorous, peer-reviewed and performance-based process, proving their ability to advance student learning and achievement.

## Meal Assistance for Free and Reduced Priced Eligible Students

Families with students who qualify for [free and reduced priced meals](#) will receive a Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) benefit card this month. The P-EBT value covers the student meal costs for breakfasts and lunches they would have received through the 2020-21 school year. This version of food assistance offers a set amount of money per child, per day based on the number of days a student attended school remotely or in person.



Puyallup School District will continue to work diligently with state agencies to claim the maximum cash benefit for families. This benefit, in addition to [free five-day meal packs](#), help cover the cost of meals children would have received at school.

## COVID-19 Health Screening and Existing Conditions

Many [symptoms of COVID-19](#) are also present in common illnesses like strep throat, the common cold, asthma, and seasonal allergies. These symptoms may cause parents to pause when answering questions on the [electronic daily health screen form](#) for students. If you need assistance submitting the [electronic daily health screen form](#) that is required of every student each day, please contact the Health Room at your child's school. Health room staff can provide additional assistance and information specific to your child's needs.



## Graduation Ceremonies

With [social distancing and restricted capacity guidelines](#), we are excited to announce that in-person graduation ceremonies will be held at the WA State Fairgrounds on the following dates and times:

- Emerald Ridge High School; June 12 at 1 p.m.
- Puyallup Digital Learning; June 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- Puyallup High School; June 12 at 5 p.m.
- Rogers High School; June 12 at 9 a.m.
- Walker High School; June 11 at 5:30 p.m.

Ceremonies will be live streamed to accommodate capacity restrictions. Schools will communicate ticket purchase process and streaming options when finalized.

## Free Meals During Spring Break

[Free meal pack](#) distribution will be available at five school locations on Monday, April 12. Meal packs will be available 11 a.m. – noon at the following pickup locations:

- Firgrove Elementary - 13918 Meridian E
- Sunrise Elementary - 2323 39th Ave. SE



- Stewart Elementary - 426 4th Ave. NE
- Wildwood Elementary - 1601 26th Ave. SE
- Waller Road Elementary - 6312 Waller Road

Regular meal pack distribution will resume at all school sites on Monday, April 19.

## Daffodil Princesses

Congratulations to Puyallup School District Daffodil Princesses! Three students have been selected for this year's Daffodil's Royal Court, made up of 23 young women from participating high schools in Pierce County. With added safety precautions, these young women will be making appearances at a multitude of events throughout the county. Students will develop public speaking skills and have the opportunity to meet and interact with people of all ages, economic levels, and different lifestyles, from local community and government leaders, to children from all areas of Pierce County.

Congratulations to:

- Katie Rose Abegglen of Puyallup High School
- Hailee Englehart of Emerald Ridge High School
- Haley Isom of Rogers High School



**Katie Rose  
Abegglen, PHS**



**Hailee Englehart,  
ERHS**



**Haley Isom, RHS**

## Athletic Update

The winter athletic season is well under way, entering the third week of competition. Stadium spectators will be asked to complete an electronic health screen upon entry for contact tracing purposes. State guidelines require that all spectators wear appropriate face coverings and keep a physical distance of at least six feet from anyone not in their household.



Visit the [Athletic Newsroom](#) for updates, in addition to information on streaming options for high school sports.

## School Board Meetings Now Online

Did you miss the opportunity to attend the [April 5 School Board meeting](#) via in-person or virtually? In addition to being live-streamed, regular Puyallup School Board meetings will now be published the next business day on the District website. Regular board meetings are live-streamed so you can watch them as they happen in real time, or watch the video recording archived in [BoardDocs](#) on the District website.



School Board Meetings are typically held at 6 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month, except for April, July, and December, due to school breaks. From time to time, the School Board also holds special meetings at other times of the month. Special meeting times and dates will be posted on our website once they have been scheduled.

## School Board Highlights: April 5

### Reports

- [Academic and Wellness Recovery Plans](#)
- [2021 Citizens Facilities Advisory Committee Commissioning Report](#)
- Business Services Feb. 2021 Financial Statements Highlights

### District Highlights

- Communities In Schools (CIS) Volunteer Awards
- Puyallup Educators Earn National Board Certification
- Athletic Highlights
- Public School Volunteer Week April 19-23

### Upcoming Meetings (virtual)

- April 9: Special School Board Meeting
- April 23: School Board Work Session ([agenda/meeting access information posted 24 hours before meeting](#))

[Link here to view previous highlights, meeting agendas, and minutes.](#)

Puyallup 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, 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.

[Non-Discrimination Statement](#)




## Puyallup School District


 Facebook

 @PuyallupSD

 302 2nd St SE, Puyallup, WA, U...

 communications@puyallup.k12...

 (253) 841-1301

 puyallup.k12.wa.us

