



Superintendent's Message

I am pleased to announce that PSD has launched a new strategic plan to continuously improve and adapt to meet the changing needs of students, staff, families and the community. This strategic plan has been developed through a collaborative and inclusive process with input from a wide range of stakeholders. It includes new mission and vision statements, a theory of action, district priorities, and measurable goals.

The plan is designed to address existing challenges and opportunities facing the district with a focus on student success and well-being, academic excellence, quality programs, and exceptional student experiences. This plan will serve as the district's compass over the next five years and will assist in identifying where we invest our time, resources, and focus as we aspire to prepare and empower every student to thrive in school, society, and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the success of our students. I am confident that this plan will position our district as a leader in education and will better serve the needs of students, families, and the community.

In service and support,

Dr. John Polm, Superintendent

Learn more and read the strategic plan: www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/strategicplan

Puyallup School District Board of Directors

- Joseph Romero, *President*
- David Berg, *Vice President*
- Turan Kayaoglu, *Legislative Rep.*
- Michael Keaton, *Legislative Rep.*
- Maddie Names, *WIAA Rep.*



PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Tradition of Excellence

Puyallup School District 3, P.O. Box 370, Puyallup, WA 98371

Upcoming Dates

APR	27	Community Resource Fair
MAY	8	School Board Meeting
MAY	19	School Board Study Session
MAY	22	School Board Meeting
MAY	26	Snow Make-up Day
MAY	29	No School, Memorial Day
JUN	5	School Board Meeting
JUN	16-17	High School Graduations

For more information:

Puyallup School District Communications
(253) 841-8703
communications@puyallup.k12.wa.us
www.puyallup.k12.wa.us

On the cover:

(L-R): Superintendent Dr. John Polm, Hailey Kim (PHS Finalist), Alejandra Gonzalez (PHS Alternate), Cimerra Killian Porter (RHS Finalist), Korinne Dutton (ERHS Finalist), and Luka Rogers (POA Finalist)

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. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator: Gordon Brobbey, brobbg@puyallup.k12.wa.us, (253) 840-8863; 504/ADA Coordinator: Eric Hogan, hoganew@puyallup.k12.wa.us, (253) 840-8848; Title IX Coordinator Staff: Amie Brandmire, brandmah@puyallup.k12.wa.us (253) 841-8645; Title IX Coordinator Students: Gordon Brobbey, brobbg@puyallup.k12.wa.us, (253) 840-8863.



Connections

Spring 2023

Community update from the Puyallup School District



Raising Student Voice

Meet the 2022-23 School Board Student Representatives

The Puyallup School District has been focused on raising student voices this school year. One of the many important ways this has been done is by adding student representatives to school board meetings. More than 60 students applied for the opportunity to represent PSD for the school year. The district's instructional leadership committee selected four student representatives and four alternates based on clear written communication, their ideas for gathering input from the larger student body, and a clear vision for service to the district and PSD community.

Learn more about these students and their roles: www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/boardstudentreps



Discover More!

Register Now for the 2023-2024 School Year

Fall 2023 registration for new K-12 students who will enter the district for the first time, or re-enter after withdrawing, are now being accepted. Parents can use the Online Enrollment System on our website to register their children. Early registration is encouraged!

Key Dates for 2023-2024 School Year Online

Find out when school is in session and out for next school year. The full student calendar for the 2023-2024 school year is now available on the district website. The first day of school will be on September 6 for grades 1-12 and September 11 for kindergarten.

Celebrating Our Award of Excellence Winners

We are proud to announce this year's Celebrating Excellence Award of Excellence recipients! This new annual awards program honors and recognizes staff, volunteers and community partners for their work and commitment to excellence in supporting the success of students and schools.



Link to this news and more by scanning the QR code to the left or visit us online at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us

Medal of Honor Recipient Visits Puyallup Digital Learning



Students and staff in the Puyallup Digital Learning program at the Kessler Center were treated to a special presentation from an honored guest on March 15.

Medal of Honor recipient Master Sergeant Earl Plumlee of the U.S. Army, and formerly of the U.S. Marine Corps, visited the program to share his story, words of encouragement and philosophy of service and resiliency with those in attendance.

Coming from a long lineage of military service members, he said that he knew he wanted to serve his country and enrolled in the U.S. Marine Corps after high school. While in the Marine Corps, Master Sergeant Plumlee served all over the world, including Japan, the Philippines and Iraq. "In the Marine Corps, I learned personal accountability and how to make a plan and stick to it, which is important in all aspects of life, school and career," said Plumlee.

After returning from his second tour of duty in Iraq, he joined the U.S. Army in 2009 and was chosen to attend the Special Forces Qualification Course, which he successfully completed and became a Special Forces Weapons Sergeant. In 2013, he was deployed to Afghanistan where

his unit was tasked with conducting stability operations. It was there that his courage and valor would help save the lives of several of his fellow service members and eventually earn him the Medal of Honor, which is the highest military decoration awarded to military service members.

"You don't have to wear a uniform or earn medals to serve your country," said Plumlee. He stressed the importance of staying in school and serving one's community. "All you have to do is work on your schoolwork, make a plan for the future, do good work and just be a great citizen. And, as you do that, when you look at that flag, it's going to take on a different meaning and you'll be proud."

Learn more about Master Sergeant Plumlee: www.army.mil/medalofhonor/plumlee

Learn more about Puyallup Digital Learning and its programs: <https://pdl.puyallup.k12.wa.us>

For a Look Inside Puyallup School District—Join Us for a Patron Tour



Patron Tours provide community members with the opportunity to see innovative teaching and learning in action and tour district facilities.

A typical agenda begins with an inside look at food service operations and the central kitchen, followed by the Warehouse, Print Shop and EdTec, and concludes with a visit to three school sites: elementary, junior, and high school. Attendees are served a complimentary lunch at the end of the tour schedule.

PSD Patron Tour

April 25, 2023, 8:30 a.m. –1 p.m.

Learn more and register:

www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/patronours

Ferrucci JH Student Wins National Deaf Art Competition



In January, Ferrucci Junior High 9th Grade Student Celia Pierce placed first in a national student art competition emphasizing representation in the Deaf community.



Sponsored through the American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS), the Chuck Baird Memorial Art Competition is a national Deaf art student contest. According to the ASLHS website, the contest's goal is to expose students to the artists, genres, and visual expressions of Deaf culture as expressed through art. Students create a visual representing American Sign Language (ASL) and the Deaf community.

Pierce, also an Emerald Ridge High School ASL Student, submitted a digital drawing of a Deaf man mourning the loss of his dog.

Pierce says the visual portrayal of the Deaf community is inclusive and that learning ASL has benefited her education and has become a part of her identity. "It is a great way to spread awareness and representation," Pierce said. "Being hard of hearing myself, I've always wanted to learn the language. It felt like a part of me I couldn't embrace very much—and now I can."

RHS Student Selected as Pierce County Student Representative

Earlier this school year, Rogers High School (RHS) Junior Rejae' Williams was selected as one of two students in Pierce County to serve as Board Student Representative on the Puget Sound Educational District's Board of Directors.

PSESD is one of nine regional educational agencies serving school districts, tribal compact schools, and state-approved charter and private schools in Washington. Each year, they select two students from the Puget Sound—one from Pierce County and one from King County, to serve a two-year term as a student representative. As a student representative to the PSESD board, Williams will help bring student voice and perspective to the discussions and decisions made by the board.

decisions being made," Williams said. "I hope that those in position won't be afraid to step away from traditional teaching and continuing to acknowledge that everyone learns differently."

In addition to taking college courses as a running start student, Williams is part of the RHS Black Student Union and involved in basketball and track and field.



"My mom always told me to be a leader, not a follower," Williams said.

When Williams first learned about the opportunity from her avid teacher, she instantly thought it would be a great learning opportunity.

"My mom always told me to be a leader, not a follower," Williams said. "Throughout my high school experience so far, I've been able to be a part of many opportunities to keep learning and improving my leadership skills."

As a PSESD Student Representative, she hopes to focus on issues that can help schools improve, and students achieve and gain valuable leadership experience that will serve her well into the future.

"I look forward to working with the other student board members and being a part of the

Families are Invited to 3rd Annual Community Resource Fair

Community Resource Fair

April 27, 2023, 5–7 p.m.

Pioneer Park Pavilion,
330 S. Meridian

Learn about free services available from a variety of school partners and community organizations, such as:

- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Mental Health Resources
- Drug and Alcohol Prevention
- Academic Assistance for Students
- Youth Experiencing Homelessness
- Educational Technology Information
- Financial Aid for College, and much more.

Two READY! For Kindergarten Orientations

April 27, 2023, 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

At the Community Resource Fair

PSD is hosting two orientations for families of students who will enter kindergarten in the fall to help prepare them for their kindergarten year. After the orientation, families will receive free kits and a link to complete three *READY! for Kindergarten* workshops on their own.

To learn more information:

www.puyallup.k12.wa.us

Rogers HS Girls Bowling Wins WIAA 4A Academic State Championship

The Rogers High School (RHS) Girls Bowling Team was recently recognized as the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) 4A Academic State Champions with a combined 3.8 GPA.



RHS Bowling Team Recognized at the WIAA Bowling State Championships in Tukwila (L-R: Alexis Hughes, Kiersten Engelhart, Ashley Beauvais, Ella Collins, Georgia Martin, Abigail Baker, and coach Justin Wisness; not pictured: Mykayla Bunch and Bergen Carlson).

Also known as the Scholastic Awards Program, according to the WIAA website, it recognizes and rewards those teams or groups that maintain a high collective academic standard.

Ashley Beauvais says it was important that she and the rest of the team supported each other academically as much as they did on the bowling lanes.

"We encouraged each other to work hard in class by being able to connect during bowling and sharing those connections at school," Beauvais said. "Being able to support each other with things like studying, sharing notes, or helping answer any questions we had with each other in ways we would not have been able to if it weren't for bowling."

Abigail Baker says the academic accomplishment is special for the entire team.

"No matter how smart we are on the lanes, we are smart in the classroom, and that's what is most important," Baker said. "Hold yourself to high standards no matter where you are in life. Always tell people you believe in them."

Join Our Team. You Belong Here!

Looking for a career with great pay and benefits? Do you want to make a difference in the community? Join our team!



Working for schools can be one of the most satisfying employment experiences a person can have. While there are many different positions available, there continues to be an urgent need for bus drivers, food service staff, paraeducators, and substitutes of all kinds. We need you! Apply today to become part of our team and support students in our community.

Learn more and apply: www.puyallup.k12.wa.us/careers

PSD Board of Directors Named a WSSDA Board of Distinction

The Puyallup School District Board of Directors was named a Board of Distinction by the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) earlier this school year.

The Boards of Distinction recognizes school boards in Washington that illustrate how their board's actions and decisions exemplified visionary leadership and helped their school districts close opportunity gaps and increase overall student success. To be awarded, boards had to show a clear link between their leadership in applying the Washington School Board Standards and closing gaps that impact student success while working together as an effective and cohesive team.

WSSDA noted the PSD Board's accomplishments in closing opportunity gaps and success in applying the Washington School Board Standards to accomplish their goals while working together as an effective and cohesive team.



Top row, left-right: Joseph Romero, David Berg, Turan Kayaoglu
Bottom row: Michael Keaton, Maddie Names