



**Puyallup School District  
Board of Directors**

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# Superintendent's Message

Over the past two years, our students, staff, and families have done an incredible job supporting changing health and safety guidance in schools as public health experts learned more about COVID-19. We are grateful for everyone’s coordinated efforts as we near the end of these unprecedented times.


The lift of the statewide indoor mask mandate, beginning on March 12, is one step towards returning to normal health operations in schools. Barring a new requirement from our local health department, masks will be optional in school buildings beginning Saturday, March 12. Staff and students will have the choice to wear a mask at school, if personally desired. For staff, we will continue to provide access to high quality masks and PPE so that individuals feel comfortable in their specific work environment.

**Our level of commitment to health and safety has not changed.** We will continue reporting COVID-19 cases and outbreaks, as with any other communicable disease, and work with public health officials in responding to them.

We will also continue to emphasize good hand-washing hygiene, provide hand sanitizer, utilize testing, frequently clean, physically distance where possible, and remind anyone who is sick to stay home. Those exposed to COVID-19 should continue to follow the quarantine and isolation timeframes for returning to work or school.

If there’s anything the pandemic has taught us it is patience, support, and kindness. Even with this update, we know some of our staff and students will want to continue to mask up. Please know that we will support everyone in their decisions and respect everyone’s right to choose for themselves. A sense of belonging in schools cannot happen if someone feels bullied or harassed. Remaining kind and respecting individual mask choices is fully encouraged and supported.

In service and support,



**Dr. John Polm, Superintendent**



PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT

*A Tradition of Excellence*

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

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### Upcoming Dates

MAR	21	School Board Meeting
MAR	25	2.5 Hour Early Release (all grades)
APR	6	School Board Meeting
APR	11/15	Spring Break (no school)
APR	22	School Board Meeting
APR	29	2.5 Hour Early Release (all grades)

**For more information:**  
Puyallup School District Communications  
(253) 841-8703  
[communications@puyallup.k12.wa.us](mailto:communications@puyallup.k12.wa.us)  
[www.puyallup.k12.wa.us](http://www.puyallup.k12.wa.us)

POSTAL CUSTOMER

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, 504/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator Students: Char Krause, [krauseca@puyallup.k12.wa.us](mailto:krauseca@puyallup.k12.wa.us), (253) 435-6295; Title IX Coordinator Staff: Amie Brandmire, [brandmah@puyallup.k12.wa.us](mailto:brandmah@puyallup.k12.wa.us), (253) 841-8666.



Connections

Spring 2022

Community update from the Puyallup School District



### Register Now for the 2022-23 School Year

Fall 2022 registration for students of all grades 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 to register their incoming kindergartner or new student at their neighborhood school. Paper copies are available at all school offices for those who do not have access to a computer.

Prior to beginning the online application process, families are encouraged to have the required documents available to upload into the application. The application can be saved throughout the process but completing the application in one sitting expedites the process. Once you have completed your student's New Student Registration form, you will receive confirmation that the form has been submitted.

Early registration is encouraged and helps us plan as we rebound from the decline in enrollment resulting from the pandemic.

**You Belong Here!**





# Connections

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## Setting Students Up for Success



*First-graders in Spanish Dual Language class at Dessie F. Evans Elementary work with teacher Karina Wheeler.*

Puyallup has a tradition of providing programs that establish, maintain, and enhance student success. From Kindergarten through 12th grade, unique learning opportunities enrich school experiences and set students up for college and career.

**READY! For Kindergarten:** Available in multiple languages, free workshops provide parents and caregivers of children birth to age 5 with tools and activities to nurture early learning and development so that children are successful in kindergarten. Workshops provide tools to help guide learning activities with children.

**Kindergarten Academy:** This free 20-week, early-entrance program is designed to assist young learners who turn five years of age after the Aug. 31 enrollment cutoff date and who would benefit from additional support to be successful in kindergarten. The program runs January through June every year and is available to families who reside within the Puyallup School District attendance boundaries. Enrollment is based on need and occurs every November for students who are planning on Kindergarten the following fall.

**Spanish Dual Language Program:** This enrichment program is the most effective way for a student to learn a second language. Students completing the program are biliterate, bicultural, and academically oriented. The Puyallup School District joins a select number of districts offering this program for students in grades K through 4 at Dessie Evans and Karshner Elementary only.

**Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID):** Designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance, this academic support program prepares students for college eligibility and success. The mission of AVID is to ensure that the students

who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard will succeed in a rigorous curriculum.

**Career and Technical Education:** Provides junior and high school students access to meaningful post-secondary opportunities in a highly competitive, global economy. In Puyallup, CTE courses provide real-world, real-life skills through academics and training. We are committed to ensuring each student obtains the essential skills necessary to succeed in a career that provides them with a sustainable living family wage.

**Highly Capable Programs:** The Puyallup School District offers a continuum of services for highly capable students in grades K-12. The Highly Capable programs are designed to provide a challenging, accelerated and enriched curriculum through a broad range of accelerated instruction, services, and experiences.

## Centrally Located Kessler Center is Open!

The Kessler Center opened this fall to serve students at the District's South Hill Support Campus, 1501 39th Ave. SW. Current programs and staff relocated to Kessler are:

- Puyallup Digital Learning program and students
- Advance Program and students (Special Services young adult program)
- Child Find
- Highly Capable headquarters
- Puyallup Special Services staff

In addition to student support programs, the central location provides an opportunity for professional development space for staff, and a future location for school board meetings.

The Kessler Center is named in honor of the Kessler family who sold the site to the district in 1986. Don and Edith Kessler (deceased) were longtime Puyallup

## Discover More!

### CTE Teachers of the Year

Congratulations Rogers teachers Willie London and Randy Webster! As part of Career and Technical Education month, PSD highlights teachers who have contributed to the success of CTE through the quality of their work, their involvement in the school community, and the impact they have had on student success.

### Watch Our Students Perform!

From choir performances to musical theatre, student productions are back on stage and open for community members to attend. Visit the ARTS in Puyallup LIVE! Calendar on the district website for showtimes for upcoming performances like "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" presented by Emerald Ridge High School, and "Mary Poppins, Jr." presented by Aylen Junior High. Contact the school directly for ticket information.



Link to this news and more by scanning the QR code to the left or visit us online at [www.puyallup.k12.wa.us](http://www.puyallup.k12.wa.us)

## Thank You to Our Voters

On Feb. 8 election ballot, the **EP&O Levy** passed with 50.23 percent yes votes. This four-year Replacement EP&O Levy will continue to provide critical funding for essential staff, programs, and services.

The **Capital Levy** fell short of the 50 percent of the votes needed to pass with 48.50 yes votes.



*Children of Don and Edith Kessler: Gayle Shenk and Lee Kessler, with grandson.*