



**Puyallup School District
Board of Directors**

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Turan Kayaoglu, *WIAA Rep.*

Superintendent's Message

I had the profound honor of witnessing 1,735 of our high school seniors graduate last month. I was filled with joy as I watched each of these students accept their diploma with a bright smile on their face and an even brighter future awaiting them on the other side.

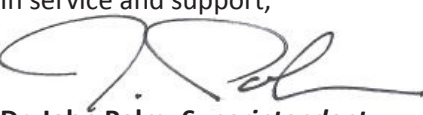
A common thread that weaved through the remarks of students and staff during both graduation ceremonies was that the journey to graduation is long and winding and features plenty of helping hands to guide students along the way. This group has truly overcome one of the most challenging high school experiences people could have imagined.

I could not help but reflect on the paths these students had taken to reach that moment of success. I thought about all of the staff, families, organizations, and community members who have helped guide each one of those students to that point. There have been so many

people who have committed their time, energy, and resources to help those students prepare for the future that awaits them.

Famed educator, philanthropist and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune once said, “The progress of the world will call for the best that all of us have to give.” I am so proud to have witnessed and experienced the very best that so many in our community have given to support our students and schools. Puyallup School District is a special place and it’s because of each of you and the commitment to our students and their success that you demonstrate year in and year out. Thank you!

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

AUG	1	School Board Meeting
AUG	15	School Board Meeting
SEP	6	School Board Meeting
SEP	7	First Day of School: Grades 1-12
SEP	12	First Day of Kindergarten

For more information:
Puyallup School District Communications
(253) 841-8703
communications@puyallup.k12.wa.us
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: Eric Hogan, hoganew@puyallup.k12.wa.us, (253) 435-6295; Title IX Coordinator Staff: Amie Brandmire, brandmah@puyallup.k12.wa.us, (253) 841-8666.



Connections

Summer 2022

Community update from the Puyallup School District



Congratulations, Class of 2022!

Join us in congratulating the incredible Puyallup School District Class of 2022! Last month, 1,735 seniors walked across the graduation stage at the Washington State Fairgrounds with diplomas in their hands and bright futures awaiting them on the other side.

The 13-year journey from kindergarten to graduation is not an easy one, but these graduates have persevered through the individual and collective challenges they have faced with determination, focus, and grace. We commend and congratulate each of them and the countless hands who have supported and guided them along the way.



Capital Levy to be on November 8, 2022 Election Ballot

Discover More!

Register for Kindergarten

Do you have a child who will be five years old by Aug. 31? It's time to register them for kindergarten! PSD offers free full day kindergarten at each of our elementary schools. Registration is easy and can be completed online or in-person.

Free Mental Telehealth Service

Throughout the summer, students can receive up to six free virtual mental health visits while at home. Hazel Health therapists are available to address concerns with students regarding stress, bullying, relationships, anxiety, depression, grief, trauma, and more.

Kindergarten Academy

Kindergarten Academy is a free 20-week, transitional program designed to assist young learners with additional support to be successful in kindergarten. The program runs January through June and is available to families who meet program requirements.



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

Free Summer Meals



Free lunches will be available for youth 18 years of age and younger at three PSD sites July 5 - Aug. 5. Meals will be distributed Mon. - Fri, 10:30 -11 a.m.

Firgrove Elementary, 13918 Meridian Ave. E
Sunrise Elementary, 2323 39th Ave. SE
Stewart Elementary, 426 4th Ave. NE

Information on other summer meal programs in our area can be found at www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids.



Karshner Elementary Dual Language Teacher Rosanna Hernandez and student using classroom technology.

At their June 21 meeting, the Puyallup School District Board of Directors approved placement of a \$125 million capital levy on the November 8, 2022 general election ballot for PSD voters to consider.

The levy would provide needed infrastructure improvements that address safety, security, and technology access throughout PSD schools and facilities. The levy of taxes over a six-year period would include:

- Upgraded security intrusion systems, cameras, alarms, and fire protection;
- Expanded student and staff access to technology through infrastructure and equipment enhancements, internet access, device life cycle replacements, and network cabling upgrades;
- Improved heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and equipment, lighting, roofing, and flooring;
- Improved parking and traffic flow at schools to ensure safe and efficient access; and
- Enhanced outdoor learning spaces through playground, all-weather athletic tracks at junior high schools and field improvements.

A previous capital levy request was narrowly rejected by a majority of voters in the Feb. 8, 2022 special election. Since then, community feedback was gathered, and adjustments were made to the capital levy request voters will consider on November 8. The main difference between the previous and new capital levy request is that Proposition 1 will not include funds for constructing a central

transportation facility or rebuilding the current maintenance facility. The funds that would have been used for those facilities have been reallocated in the new capital levy request to fund additional safety, security, and technology improvements districtwide.

A detailed informational pamphlet will be mailed to PSD residents in October. Register to vote at the Pierce County Elections website. Senior tax exemption information can be found on the Pierce County Assessor's website. Additional information is available at www.puyallup.k12.wa.us.



Bond Refinance Saves Taxpayers \$500,000

The Puyallup School District has successfully taken advantage of current low bond interest rates to save taxpayers almost \$500,000 over the next two years. A sale of bonds authorized by the PSD Board of Directors have refinanced bonds issued in 2012. The overall borrowing rate for the new bonds sold on February 23 is a very low 2.47%, compared to the rate of 4.73% on the old bonds.

"This is a great opportunity to save our taxpayers a significant amount of money," said Superintendent Dr. John Polm. He emphasized that the anticipated

savings will go directly to taxpayers through lower future tax collections. "This is money that will now stay in our community and our local economy, rather than go to pay higher interest on those bonds."

The district will continue to look for opportunities to refinance existing bonds to find cost savings for local taxpayers.

As part of the sale, the district received a very strong credit rating of "Aa2" from Moody's Investors Service, which helps lower the district's borrowing costs.