



SOUTH KITSAP SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMMUNITY CONNECTION *Winter 2024*



Squid dissection lab at Burley Glenwood

Winter 2024:

*Academic Excellence, Post Election Survey, New Culinary Classroom,
Sea Cadets, Reduced Tax Collection, New School Board*

Community Connection - Winter 2024

Commitment to Academic Excellence

The start of 2024 is filled with hope and excitement for the future. Our journey toward academic excellence continues, and together, we will reach new heights. Academic excellence isn't just about good grades; it's about growth, learning, and the joy of discovery. The profile of a successful South Kitsap learner is shown below. Success is about each student finding their path and each teacher being the guiding light. Our commitment to supporting every student's journey remains unwavering.

Monitoring Success Indicators

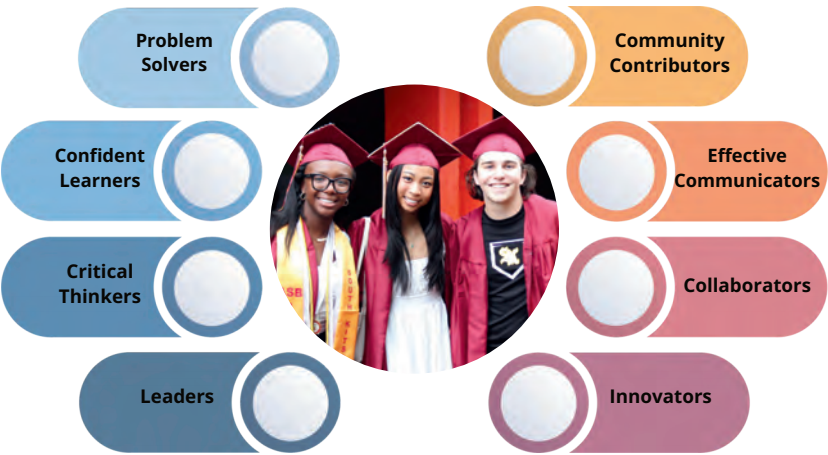
Academic success is the top priority in the SKSD Strategic Plan and checkpoints are monitored regularly including:

- High quality instruction in all classrooms
- Professional development
- Inclusive and equitable teaching and learning
- Professional learning communities
- Innovative learning opportunities

Goals and Indicators of success:

- Grade-level proficiency in math
- Early literacy / 3rd grade reading
- Graduation rate
- Attendance
- Belonging

South Kitsap Learner Profile



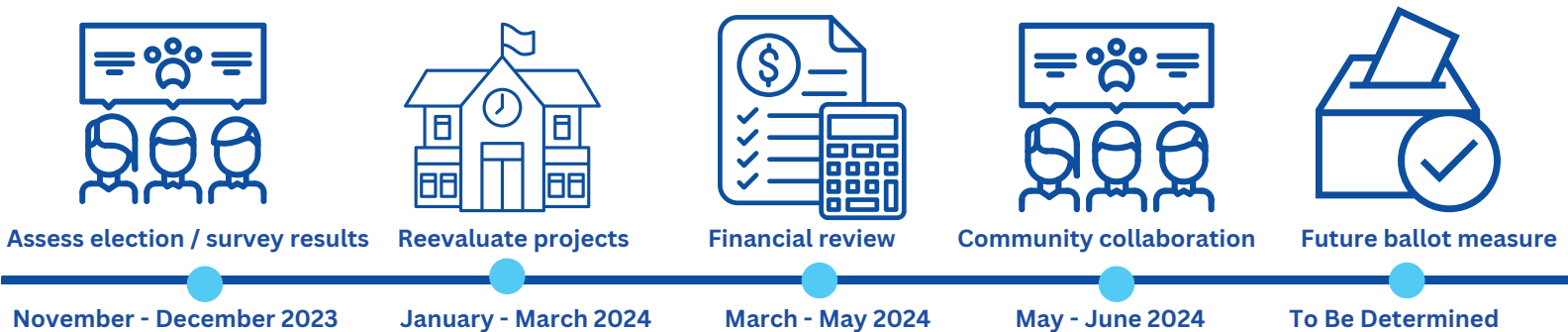
Bond Results and Post Election Feedback

The South Kitsap School District Bond to replace 5 schools, rebuild the oldest section of South Kitsap High School and make safety improvements districtwide received 50.74% approval, but did not reach the 60% supermajority approval needed to pass. The situation is not unique to South Kitsap, in fact, there was not a successful bond in all of Washington state. What is unique is that SKSD has not passed a bond in more than 35 years.

42% of registered voters in South Kitsap participated in the election. SKSD conducted a survey to gather feedback after the election. A summary of responses and a full report are posted on the district website at skschools.org/bond/bond-recap. A few common themes came to light from the survey. Respondents noted a need for more community involvement, engagement and marketing with a focus on how the bond projects will benefit students. More detailed information on the proposed bond projects is desired to help build trust and understanding.

District administrators and the School Board are evaluating next steps and a timeline for moving forward. This includes reviewing survey results, reevaluating projects and project financial estimates, and planning community engagement for a future ballot measure. A date for a future measure has not yet been determined.

Next Steps?



Success is cooking at South Kitsap High School

The culinary lab at South Kitsap High School is open after extensive renovation and modernization. The lab is an instructional and hands-on learning space that is used by students in grades 9-12. Students in Beginning Culinary, Advanced Culinary, and ProStart Culinary get a taste for careers in food preparation, planning, and service in this exciting career pathway.

The culinary lab renovation was funded by the Career & Technical Education Department. SKSD Facilities staff were instrumental in completing the project and were on site to celebrate at the ribbon cutting breakfast. Instructors Stevie Roark and Ryan Poppe are thrilled with the improved space and the learning opportunities it will provide for students.



SKHS students at work in the new culinary lab.



SKHS students and staff at the culinary lab ribbon cutting breakfast.

Sea Cadets Wolf Squadron

Wolf Squadron is more than a typical after school activity. The Sea Cadet Corps is an exciting and dynamic opportunity for middle school students to learn naval and leadership skills. The Cedar Heights Sea Cadet program is comprised of nearly 80 students who participate in comprehensive training and activities designed to:

- Spark a keen interest in seamanship and maritime skills
- Foster a sense of good citizenship and ethical behavior
- Promote a healthy lifestyle
- Provide a window into unique career opportunities
- Cultivate core values like self-discipline, honor, courage, and commitment

Joining the Sea Cadets is about growth and exploration, with no obligation to join the Navy or any other military branch. It is a chance to learn, grow, and become a part of something bigger!



Sea Cadets at Cedar Heights Middle School.



SKSD Website: www.skschools.org
Facebook: facebook.com/SouthKitsapSchoolDistrict
Instagram: @southkitsap
X: @SouthKitsapSD
Vimeo: vimeo.com/sksd

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Reduced Levy Collection = \$4.8 million

In 2021, South Kitsap voters approved the Educational Programs & Operations Levy for collection in years 2022-2025. Due to Legislative changes, **the collection for 2024 will be capped at less than the voter approved amount. This means SKSD will not collect \$4,851,352 from taxpayers in 2024.**

The Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy makes up approximately 17% of the district budget. Levy funds support a variety of student needs including Counselors, Security, Support Teachers, Special Education, Arts, and Athletic programs. The reduced collection means that the district will receive less revenue and will adjust accordingly.



Levy Collection Details:

- School Districts may collect whichever is lower, either \$2.50 per thousand of assessed value or (for 2024) \$3,149.69 per pupil full time equivalent (FTE). For South Kitsap, the per pupil amount is lower.
- For 2024, South Kitsap voters approved \$33,118,717 collection, but SKSD can collect a maximum of \$28,267,365 which equates to \$1.94 per thousand of assessed value.
- This means **\$4,851,352 will not be collected from South Kitsap taxpayers in 2024.**

Meet the South Kitsap School Board Directors



Jeff Wilson

Kate Espy

Jay Villars

Megan Higgins

Brian Pickard

At the December 6, 2023 board meeting, three school board directors took their oath of office for terms running until 2027. Kate Espy will continue as director district one. Kate is a retired emergency and forensic nurse and serves on several nonprofit boards including Kitsap Support Advocacy Counseling Board and Soroptimist. Megan Higgins won election in director district two. Megan worked in research at Seattle Children's Hospital and spent time tutoring and volunteering in South Kitsap schools. Jay Villars will represent director district five. Jay retired from a 38 year career in education and 20 years in South Kitsap School District administration. He is active in the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs of South Kitsap. Kate, Megan, and Jay join Brian Pickard and Jeff Wilson to serve the school district as a whole. Board meetings are typically held the first and third Wednesday each month starting at 5:30 pm at the SKSD Administration Building located at 2689 Hoover Ave, Port Orchard.

SKSD Board of Directors: Jeffrey Wilson, Brian Pickard, Kate Espy, Megan Higgins, Jay Villars | Superintendent: Tim Winter

The South Kitsap School District provides equal educational and employment opportunity without regard to race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation – including gender expression or identity, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Equal access to activities, facilities and program is provided to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. District procedure complies with all applicable state and federal laws. The Title IX Officer and Section 504 Coordinator with the responsibility for monitoring, auditing and ensuring compliance with this policy are:

Compliance/ADA/Title IX Coordinator
Will Sarett, Executive Director of Human Resources
2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366
phone: 360-874-7071 email: sarett@skschools.org

Section 504 Coordinator
Tiffany Buckley, Assistant Director of Health Services
2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366
phone: 360-443-3763 email: buckley@skschools.org

Gender Inclusivity Compliance Officer
Dr. Tom Edwards, Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement
2689 Hoover Ave SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366
phone: 360-874-7003 email: edwards@skschools.org

This newsletter was paid for by South Kitsap School District