



Bush Middle and Tumwater Middle students took part in an Ignite workshop to learn more about STEM careers. After hearing from a panel of Afiniti employees, students asked questions and then participated in breakout rooms to explore Artificial Intelligence and machine learning applications.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Schools – What's Next?

Written by Dr. Antha Holt, Technology TOSA

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has headlined many news articles lately. So, what is it? Artificial intelligence, or AI for short, is when computers or machines are programmed to do things that generally require human intelligence, like thinking and learning.

AI is used in many applications, from helping doctors diagnose diseases to enabling self-driving cars to navigate roads. AI can also be found in virtual assistants like Siri or Alexa, which can answer your questions, play music, or set reminders. Websites use AI to analyze data and make personal recommendations. Have you ever looked at something on a website and then have Facebook suddenly have ads for that exact item? That is AI! AI learns from the information (or data) it is given to become smarter and more helpful.

While AI is still a relatively new technology, it has already shown great potential to revolutionize many areas of our lives. However, like any new technology, there are concerns about its impact on society and the need to ensure that it is used ethically and responsibly.

In education, potential challenges include plagiarism, misinformation, and students using AI to complete their homework. However, there are tools to detect AI, and AI-created text may not be accurate. An individual's writing style will not be reflected in AI-created text. The reality is that AI tools will not go away, and it is essential to help students use them responsibly.

AI can be used in a positive way in schools. Many educators are redesigning learning activities. Teachers can have ChatGTP (an AI tool) create poorly written texts, then have students correct them. Video classes, with teacher guidance, can have it write scripts for announcements or short videos. It can generate code for computer projects. Students who want a graphic

representing a specific topic or narrative can use the text-to-image tool. Here are four ways students can benefit from AI tools: 1. Help their creativity - A student may know what they want to write but can't get started, or maybe has an illustration in mind but isn't able to create it. 2. AI's cannot think, just process data - A student could use AI to create an outline and then use this to write their essay. 3. Increase Self-Esteem - Students who may not yet have communication skills could work with their teacher to develop skills to help them write and communicate independently. 4. Build Problem-Solving Skills - Students could use prompts to find historical solutions to an invention, then problem-solve by discussing the pros and cons to develop their solution.

In Tumwater, some of our middle school students from BMS & TMS attended an Ignite STEM workshop where they played rock, paper, scissors against a machine learning tool that learned from the patterns of their choices as they were introduced to the power of AI tools. Our district technology professionals are preparing training materials and opportunities for our teachers and staff to create more classroom AI learning opportunities while navigating this technology safely and responsibly.

Many people are using AI to save time. AI can be used to create review questions for content, write lesson plans, create presentations, write outlines, write explanations at a specific reading level, generate formulas for spreadsheets, and more.

AI is continuing to evolve and who knows what AI will do for us in the future. As time moves on, we will continue to research, learn, and teach responsible use of this valuable resource to our students and staff.

Parts of this article were written by ChatGTP. Are you able to tell?

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Carole Meyer, TSD
Interim Superintendent

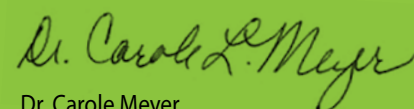
Hello Tumwater Families,
As the interim superintendent of this great district for the 2022-23 school year, I must share I have been able to witness so many inspiring stories throughout TSD schools and our community. One of my priorities this year has been to visit each school every month and in doing so, I have

been so impressed by the excellent teaching and learning taking place in our classrooms and on our campuses. It has been wonderful to visit classrooms in all of our schools and spend time with employees and students. Students are actively engaged and enjoying their work. It is obvious that everyone is deeply committed to restoring normalcy in our school communities, and the students are benefiting greatly from these efforts.

I want to thank the TSD staff for sharing their knowledge, passion, and support for all of our students. From the time they are picked up in the morning to when they are delivered home, our students are surrounded by an awesome and resilient collection of dedicated professionals that demonstrate day-in and day-out that they are providing our students with a safe place to learn, succeed, and excel. They have navigated the challenges of change and the unknown and never wavered in their commitment to your students.

To the parents and guardians of our students, words cannot express my deep appreciation and gratitude for your continued support and involvement in your child's education and in our schools. I appreciate your active engagement and care that you invest in the success of your children and in our staff. Thank you for sharing your awesome children with us and for entrusting us with their education and personal development.

It is truly an honor to serve as interim superintendent for TSD and I have been welcomed into the community with open hearts and open arms. TSD is a hidden gem with generations of families and roots that grow deeply throughout our schools and the community. Coming from a small town myself, I have appreciated the generosity I have experienced within the district and have felt part of this community from the start. I feel fortunate to call Tumwater my home away from home.



Dr. Carole Meyer
TSD Interim Superintendent

BHHS 25 Years!



A.G. West Black Hills High School celebrates 25 years! In an all-school assembly, they honored teachers and staff that have been there since the school opened in 1997. Pictured: Matt Bell, Francie Harville, Dave Heywood, Ruth Overacker, Kirk Stevens, Dave Wegener, and Dale Reeves. Not in picture: Kelly McNeal and Lisa Summers.

**Happy Birthday
BHSS!**

Join Us! Countdown to Kindergarten

Now is the time to register your kindergartener!

If your child will be 5 by August 31st, please contact your neighborhood school or our District Office at 360-709-7000 for information on how to register.

Each elementary school will host a Kindergarten Orientation on May 19th for students that are registered.

We look forward to welcoming our future Class of 2036!

Do you have a 5-year-old?



Register for Kindergarten

Board Corner

A Message from the President

Written by Scott Killough

On behalf of the School Board, I am pleased to provide the community of Tumwater with an update on our search for the next superintendent. After receiving input from staff, students, and the community, we posted the job announcement with the desired qualities and experience. We were honored to have a large pool of qualified candidates apply for the position. With our Interim Superintendent, Dr. Carole Meyer, leading by example, the School Board placed a priority on experience. We held preliminary interviews of six candidates in February, each with executive cabinet or superintendent experience. In reviewing the qualifications and interview responses, three of the candidates had responses that resonated closest to our mission of continuous student learning in a caring, engaging environment, our legislative priorities of equitable and stable funding, as well as equity and health & safety to support student success. The finalist interviews included a full day touring our district, meeting with staff and students, and ending the day with community forums.

Following the finalist interviews, the School Board announced at the March 9th board meeting the selection of candidate Mr. Kevin Bogatin as our next superintendent. Kevin currently serves as superintendent in North Bend School District in Oregon. His prior experience includes assistant superintendent, principal at all levels, and elementary teacher.

Mr. Bogatin will start in Tumwater on July 1, 2023. Over the next several months, he will spend time with Interim Superintendent Dr. Meyer, other leaders, and staff to begin the transition of leadership. He shares, "I am honored to be selected as the next superintendent of Tumwater! Over the past few months I have spent quite a bit of time in the district and have grown to love the people and community. As the next Tumwater School District superintendent,



Tumwater School District Board of Directors and Student Representatives. Back row l-r: Board President Scott Killough, Vice President Darby Kaikkonen, members Jill Adams, Melissa Beard, Casey Taylor. Front row l-r: Cascadia High School representative Lyn Hepp, Black Hills High School representative Alex Loveless, Tumwater High School representative Ameiya Brown.

my number one goal will be exceptional student success, growth and well-being. I look forward to working together for the benefit of all of our students."

Thank you to all who were involved in this process. The input we received as we developed the job description and the feedback received regarding the candidates was carefully considered and we appreciate your participation and interest in the future of our district. **Tumwater is a great place for students to learn and grow!**



Day on the hill 2023:

Considering and amplifying student voice is an important part of our work. THS Student Representative to the Board, Ameiya Brown, spent a "day on the hill" with board representatives from throughout the state, as well as superintendents and board members. She had an opportunity to meet with local legislators, hear from the State Superintendent and share our district legislative priorities.

THE trail stewards:

Tumwater Hill Elementary 5th graders in Mr. Nunlist's class adopted a City trail and have been hard at work on their first project. Students completed volunteer training and will be helping maintain trails through the year by picking up trash, pulling ivy, and planting bulbs and wildflower seeds. This is an example of outdoor education in action as well as instilling the importance of being involved to make our community a better place.



Capital Projects Around the District

By Mel Murray, Director of Facilities



One of the upcoming projects scheduled to take place will strengthen the Tumwater Middle School cafeteria walls to withstand earthquakes.

Thanks to the backing of our supportive Tumwater community, we are able to continue improving and updating our district facilities, providing our students with safe facilities and state-of-the-art technology. The last bond our district voters approved was in 2014 and all of those projects are now complete. Our current projects are funded through the 2020 and 2022 capital levies. These funds allow us to increase safety, make minor building modifications, update technology, provide major preventative maintenance, and energy conservation projects. Upcoming projects include:

- Install high-efficiency boilers at Black Hills HS, Tumwater HS and Black Lake Elementary
- Install a fire sprinkler system at Black Lake Elementary
- Add electronic locks and access control to more of our entry doors throughout the district
- Paint the interior and exterior of Black Hills HS
- Strengthen Tumwater Middle cafeteria walls to withstand earthquakes
- Build separate illness isolation rooms at each elementary school as required by the Department of Health
- Replace intercom systems and install inside and outside safety alerts at elementary and high schools
- Replace student furniture at Michael T. Simmons and Black Lake Elementary
- Replace the security cameras at Black Hills HS and Tumwater HS
- Replace areas of roofing at both high schools and Bush MS
- Install solar panels at Black Hills HS (WA Dept. Of Commerce grant is paying 45%)
- Replace parking lot lights with LED's
- Replace Tumwater HS library lights with LED's
- Install a new modular building next to the District Office for our Learning Independence by Networking Community and School (LINCS) program. This gives our 18-21-year-old Lifeskills students a place to practice work and home skills as they transition from high school to successfully living on their own. This frees up two classrooms at Tumwater Learning Center that Cascadia HS will be able to use.

The Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC), comprised of community members and district staff, has been meeting to provide input as we consider when our district may need to build an additional school – most likely an elementary school. If needed, a future bond measure would be placed on the ballot for voters to consider that would include funding a new school as well as other capital projects. The FAC helps us be thoughtful and responsible stewards of all our resources. If you are interested in volunteering for the committee, please contact Facilities Director Mel Murray at 360-709-7005.

Our schools: Black Hills High School (BHHS), Tumwater High School (THS), Cascadia High School (CHS), Bush Middle School (BMS), Tumwater Middle School (TMS), Black Lake Elementary (BLE), East Olympia Elementary (EOE), Littlerock Elementary (LRE), Michael T. Simmons Elementary (MTS), Peter G. Schmidt Elementary (PGS), Tumwater Hill Elementary (THE), and Tumwater Virtual Academy (TVA). Board of Directors: President Scott Killough, Vice President Darby Kaikkonen, and members Jill Adams, Melissa Beard, Casey Taylor, and Interim Superintendent Dr. Carole Meyer. Editing, photography: Laurie Wiedenmeyer, Director of Communications & Community Relations. Graphic Design: Lisa Wenham.

Tumwater School District will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on age, sex, race, creed, religion,

color, national origin, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person of disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Shawn Batstone, Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator 360-709-7030, 621 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512. Andra Kelley-Batstone, 504 - 360-709-7030, 621 Linwood Ave. SW, Tumwater, WA 98512.

El Distrito Escolar Tumwater proporcionará oportunidades educativas y trato igual a todos los estudiantes, en toda parte de los programas académicos



URGENT NEED! BUS DRIVERS



\$21.00/hr
training,
\$21.25 subs,
\$25.00 - \$28.50
after training

Join our Team

COMPETITIVE SALARY AND BENEFITS

For information about our paid training program, contact Transportation Supervisor Dena Jordan at 360-709-7715 or dena.jordan@tumwater.k12.wa.us.

Come work with the greatest students around!



Tumwater School District

Continuous Student Learning in a Caring, Engaging Environment

