

Lake Schools



**SUMMER
2024**

- *Congratulations to the Class of 2024 (pgs. 1-2)*
- *Replacement construction bond helps prepare all students for their futures (pgs. 5-6)*
- *Free summer meal program for kids and teens (pg. 4)*



LAKE STEVENS
School District

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024



On June 11, a total of 580 Lake Stevens High School students received diplomas. This year's graduates earned more than \$2.76 million in scholarships and awards. Members of the Class of 2024 aspire to be firefighters, neuroscientists, chemists, aerospace engineers, mathematicians, biologists, doctors and computer scientists—just to name a few. We also have several students who will proudly serve our country in the Armed Forces.



"On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Lake Stevens School District, it is my great honor and privilege as your Superintendent to certify that these students have met all standards and graduation requirements set forth by the Lake Stevens School District and the State of Washington. You are hereby awarded your high school diplomas. I present the Class of 2024."

Dr. Ken Collins, Superintendent



"Lake Stevens High School was a school that I felt like I belonged in and I truly hope in one way or another you felt the same way whether it be through a sport, a club, or even the people you met...these last three years were filled with so many great memories I will forever remember and I can't wait to see all the amazing things you all achieve. Congratulations Class of 2024!"

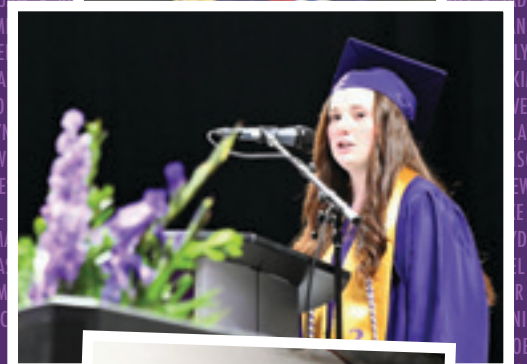
**Ruchika Sansuddi,
ASB President**

"I want to encourage every student, educator, parent, sibling, and most importantly fellow graduates, to be the person who raises their hand when they need help. I encourage you to be aware of others when they raise their hands, regardless of how they do it, and to offer your support. I want to take this moment to thank every teacher I have had for the past 13 years for recognizing the countless times I raised my hand, even when it didn't look like I was."

**Molly Rose Bates,
Staff-Selected Speaker**

"How others view you isn't in your control...so please, don't limit yourself to the assumption that you have to fit someone else's view to achieve your dreams. Don't compare yourself with anybody...we are all important, and we all have the potential to tap into that raw excitement and passion we had as children, to achieve something extraordinary."

**Max Hill,
Student-Selected Speaker**



HERE ARE YOUR TOP SCHOLARS

Every year we honor the top scholars from the Lake Stevens High School graduating class. The Class of 2024 had 19 students tie for top honors! Each of these students maintained perfect 4.0 GPAs. That means they have never received less than an "A" on a report card in grades 9-12.

Harini Arumugam Gandhimathi will attend the W.A. Franke Honors College at the University of Arizona where she will study physiology and medical sciences. She is the daughter of Arumugam Ramaraj and Gandhimathi Ganesan. She attended schools in California and Washington before coming to Lake Stevens High School. Harini would like to thank her family and teachers—especially Ms. Olson—and her friends for always being there for her, and for making her education the first priority. It was a hard journey, but LSHS made it a smooth ride for her.

Anthony Craig will attend Western Washington University where he will study urban planning. He is the son of Maryann and Jeff Craig. He attended Hillcrest Elementary School, Lake Stevens Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. He would like to thank his grandfather, Michael Craig, for inspiring him to be the person he is today.

Drew Geil will attend Gonzaga University where he will study mathematics. He is the son of Krista and Tom Geil. He attended elementary schools in another district before coming to North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School.

Seth Haack will attend Grand Canyon University where he will study justice. He is the son of Judy and Joel Haack. He attended Sunnycrest Elementary School, North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. He is grateful for his family, teachers and coaches for their support and guidance, which helped him achieve this goal.

Talan Hemans will attend the Snohomish County 22 Fire Academy. He is the son of Kayla and Ryan Hemans. He attended Mt. Pilchuck Elementary School, North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. He would like to thank his family for giving him the opportunity to succeed.

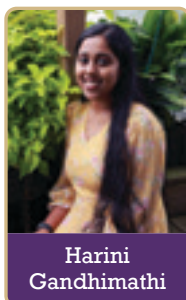
Brooklyn Hyatt will attend the University of Washington where she will study pre-health sciences. She is the daughter of Janice and Robert Hyatt. She attended Glenwood Elementary School, Lake Stevens Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. She would like to thank her mother, her "rock" from day one. Brooklyn wouldn't be who she is today without her.

Kasey Insko will attend Central Washington University where she will study English and creative writing. She is the daughter of Erika and Michael Insko. She attended Hillcrest Elementary School, Lake Stevens Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School.

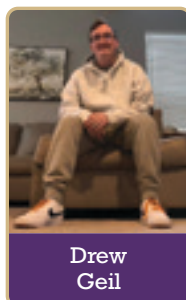
Drey Jones will attend Western Washington University where they will study psychology. Drey's parents are Irene and Caleb Jones. Drey attended Highland Elementary School, North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. They would like to thank all of the teachers in the district.



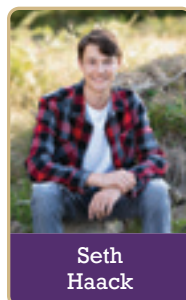
Anthony
Craig



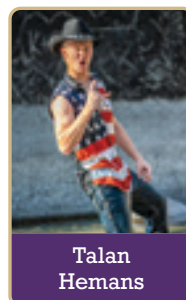
Harini
Gandhimathi



Drew
Geil



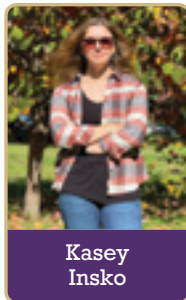
Seth
Haack



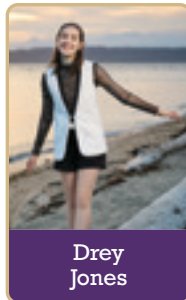
Talan
Hemans



Brooklyn
Hyatt



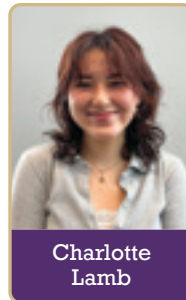
Kasey
Insko



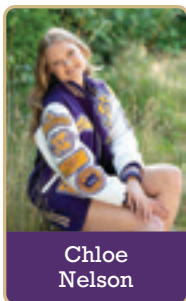
Drey
Jones



Edrik
Khanphet



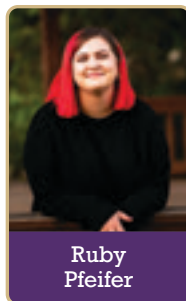
Charlotte
Lamb



Chloe
Nelson



Jiseia
Nitaira



Ruby
Pfeifer



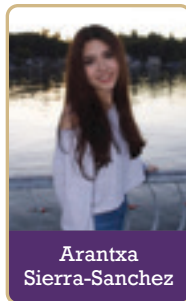
Andrei
Ragland



Ava
Robinson



Aidan
Seals



Arantxa
Sierra-Sanchez



Kamryn
Wenz



Andrew
Winston

Edrik Khanphet will attend the University of Washington where he will study management information systems or finance. He is the son of Marisa and David Severson. He attended schools in another district before attending Cavelero Mid High School. He'd like to thank his parents for the sacrifices they make every day to allow him to succeed in school and in life. He'd also like to thank his teachers and coaches for caring and giving their time.

Charlotte Lamb will attend Wellesley College where she will study neuroscience with a minor in psychology or creative writing. She is the daughter of Mei Lamb. She attended Mt. Pilchuck Elementary School, North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. She would like to thank Grace and Mia for being the loveliest best friends, and for always supporting her dreams. Charlotte would also like to thank her brother, Sam, for his competitive sibling rivalry, which motivated her to perform to her fullest potential.

Chloe Nelson will attend Montana State University where she will study biochemistry. She is the daughter of Melisa and James Nelson. She attended Glenwood Elementary School, North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School.

Jiseia Nitaira will attend the University of Washington where she will study biochemistry. She is the daughter of Julia Ochoa and Jeffrey Nitaira. She attended elementary school in another district before Lake Stevens Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School.

Message from Your Superintendent

As I write this final column of *Lake Schools*, I do so with a strong sense of gratitude and pride. After 34 years, the time has come for me to retire and pass the torch to new leadership. This moment is significant as I consider our students' growth, our employees' dedication, and the steadfast support from our community.

I was delighted to present 580 Lake Stevens High School students with their diplomas on June 11. I am immensely proud of our graduates. Each year, they surpass our expectations—equipped not only with academic knowledge, but with the resilience and character that embody the spirit of our district. This year's graduates earned more than \$2.76 million in scholarships and awards. Members of the Class of 2024 aspire to be firefighters, neuroscientists, chemists, aerospace engineers, mathematicians, biologists, doctors and computer scientists—just to name a few.

We also have several students who will proudly serve our country in the Armed Forces.

Our employees' commitment to student success has been pivotal during my tenure. The dedication of our teachers, administrators and support staff is essential, and I am grateful for your tireless efforts.

Community support has been crucial to our district. Your active participation and feedback have guided us and helped maintain high standards of excellence. I am especially grateful for your involvement in initiatives, like the upcoming school construction bond this November. Please continue to review the information provided, remain engaged in the process, and share your questions and feedback. Your informed and active participation is crucial.

As we look to the future, I am confident that you will extend a warm welcome to Dr. Templeton, your new superintendent. Her leadership and vision are what our district needs to continue its legacy of excellence. I am confident you will

support Dr. Templeton as you have supported me, helping ensure a smooth transition and ongoing success for our schools.

In closing, I would like to express how much I have appreciated all the support I have received in my various district roles over the last 34 years. I have served as a teacher, coach, dean of students, associate principal, principal, assistant superintendent (of Human Resources and Teaching & Learning) and superintendent. It has been an incredible learning journey throughout which I have made lifelong friendships. Leading in this amazing community has been my great honor.

Thank you and good luck!



Sincerely,

Ken Collins, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Senior Officers and Senators: (front row) Erin Wright, Dakota Zaagman, Claire McCullough and Marina Pearson. (second row) Harini Arumugam Gandhimathi, Ameila Vasquez, Alyssa Norgaard and Ruchika Sansuddi. (back row) Andrew Winston, Nathaniel Zeutenhorst, Brooklyn Hyatt and Bradie Merrifield.

Ruby Pfeifer will attend Everett Community College where she will study secondary education with an endorsement in social studies. She is the daughter of Meridiane and Adam Pfeifer. She attended Highland Elementary School, North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. She would like to thank her parents for helping her with homework, and being so awesome; and friends Josie Wilcox and Kiana Scheanwald for their awesomeness.

Andrei Ragland will attend the University of Washington where they will study chemistry. Andrei's parents are Violetta and Chip Ragland. Andrei attended Skyline Elementary School, North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. They would like to thank their teachers and parents for supporting and inspiring them.

Ava Robinson will attend the University of Washington. She is the daughter of Jessica Armstrong, Allen Robinson, and Kellee Arnstrong. She attended Sunnycrest Elementary

School, North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. She would like to thank the amazing teachers and staff who contributed to her 13 years of education in LSSD—from Sunnycrest to LSHS. She would also like to thank her family and friends for their immeasurable love and support.

Aidan Seals will attend Everett Community College. He is the son of Christy and Robert Seals. He attended Glenwood Elementary School, Lake Stevens Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. Aidan would like to thank Ms. Kotlarov for his success—the most fun and engaging math teacher he's ever had.

Arantxa Sierra Sanchez will attend Washington State University where she will study computer science. She is the daughter of Haidee Angeles and Manuel Sierra. She attended Glenwood Elementary School, Lake Stevens Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. She would like to thank her parents, Ms. Guilfoil, Ms. Morton and her EVCC professors.

Kamryn Wenz will attend the Clark Honors College at the University of Oregon where she will study neuroscience and criminology. She is the daughter of Amy Foote-Wenz and Harold Wenz. She attended Highland Elementary School, North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. She would like to thank her family, friends, coaches, teachers, Jim Morrison, and everyone else who helped her to be herself, or mentored her to be a better person.

Andrew Winston will attend the University of Washington where he will study aerospace engineering. He is the son of Colleen and Will Winston. He attended Mt. Pilchuck Elementary School, North Lake Middle School and Cavelero Mid High School. He'd like to thank all of his high school teachers for helping him and teaching him. Andrew would also like to thank his parents for being supportive of all of his goals.

FREE SUMMER LUNCH



June 24 to Aug. 15 | Monday to Thursday | Closed July 1-4

Service: 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Hot and cold entrees of the day. Daily fresh fruit and veggie garden bar with lowfat or nonfat milk.
- For any child or teen 18-years-old and younger.
- Adults can purchase a meal for \$4.50 (cash only).



Location:
Early Learning Center
9215 29th St NE

Replacement Construction Bond:

Safety. Growth. Preparing all students for their futures.

A school construction bond will be on the Nov. 5, 2024 ballot. This replaces the 2005 construction bond, which will be paid off in 2025. This bond continues the district's commitment to improve the safety and security of our schools, address the impacts of growth in our community, and replace aging school buildings with ones built to today's safety and educational standards—equipped to prepare all students for their futures.

The school construction bond would provide funding for:

- Secure campus fencing, entry and portable security improvements at nine schools;
- A new elementary school;
- Modernization and expansion of Glenwood and Skyline Elementary schools;
- Lake Stevens Middle School modernization and expansion;
- New spaces for special education services at eight schools;
- New gymnasiums at Glenwood, Hillcrest, Mt. Pilchuck and Skyline Elementary Schools and Lake Stevens Middle School;
- A new Innovative Learning Center to provide secondary students non-traditional learning opportunities to be successful;
- A new district central kitchen to keep up with growth at our elementary schools, and;
- Athletic field improvements at Cavelero Mid High School, Lake Stevens Middle School and North Lake Middle School.

These projects were selected after a comprehensive study conducted by the community Facilities Needs Advisory Committee (FNAC). The FNAC was composed of parents and caregivers, employees, students and community members. They thoroughly reviewed each facility's Building Condition Assessment, which ranks schools' structure, systems and safety components. They also studied enrollment projections and community growth trends.

Bond history and past projects

In the last 20 years, our community has approved two bond measures to fund school construction, facility improvements and modernizations throughout the district. The proposed 2024 projects build on that work to address safety needs and growth in our schools.

The 2005 bond (which expires in 2025) included:

- Building of Cavelero Mid High School;
- Modernization of Hillcrest, Mt. Pilchuck and Sunnycrest Elementary Schools; and
- Facilities improvements at Lake Stevens High School, including the new stadium.

The 2016 bond (which expires in 2037) included:

- Building of Stevens Creek Elementary School and Early Learning Center;
- Modernization and expansion of Lake Stevens High School;
- Track replacements and
- Updates to safety, security and infrastructure systems at all schools.

The 2024 bond (which will replace the 2005 bond) would fund:

- Balancing enrollment at the elementary school level by building a new elementary school, and expanding Glenwood and Skyline Elementary Schools as a part of their modernizations;
- Modernizing Lake Stevens Middle School to protect the community's past investment and extend the school's life while adding capacity for future growth;
- Districtwide safety and security updates, building on the work approved by the 2016 bond.

Taxpayer investment

The proposed \$314 million school construction bond would fund improvements across all schools. For a homeowner with a property assessed at the average value of \$625,000, the cost of the bond would be \$1.76 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This rate translates to about \$29 per month, or approximately \$350 per year, which is roughly \$1 per day.

Our Board of Directors prioritizes fiscal responsibility and strives to minimize taxpayer costs. With the 2005 bond set to be repaid next year, the proposed 2024 bond is designed to replace its cost, thereby maintaining a stable tax rate. Additionally, the financial impact of this bond is lower compared to the previous two bonds. As our community has expanded, the increased number of property owners, along with the growth in commercial and retail properties over the past eight years, helps distribute the costs more broadly beyond just homeowners.

State construction assistance funds and impact fees from developers

The projects maximize approximately \$60 million in state construction assistance funds to minimize the costs to our taxpayers. These funds are only available to school districts after the successful passage of a school construction bond. In addition, school impact fees paid by developers of new homes will also go towards the projects.



Please visit the district website to learn more about the bond:

WWW.LKSTEVENS.WEDNET.EDU/BOND

Your top questions answered on the 2024 Replacement Construction Bond

Q: The bond projects will address the elementary and middle school levels, but what about the high school?

A: At the elementary level, there are currently more than 30 portables used as temporary classrooms, serving more than 800 students, with 14 more used for music, PE and other support services. The community Facilities Needs Advisory Committee determined that our most immediate need was to add permanent classroom space at the elementary level by modernizing and expanding Glenwood and Skyline Elementary Schools, building a new elementary school, and modernizing and expanding Lake Stevens Middle School.

Lake Stevens High School (LSHS) was modernized and expanded with funding from the 2016 bond. The expansion at LSHS was built to accommodate future growth based on enrollment projections from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The new Secondary Innovative Learning Center, one of the projects included in the 2024 bond, will also draw enrollment from LSHS and our secondary schools by offering non-traditional learning opportunities for students who need additional support.

Q: When will Cavelero Mid High School turn into a second high school?

A: Cavelero was opened in 2007 to address overcrowding at the middle and high school levels. The school currently serves grades 8-9, and will continue to do so for a while based on secondary enrollment projections from the state, county and district.

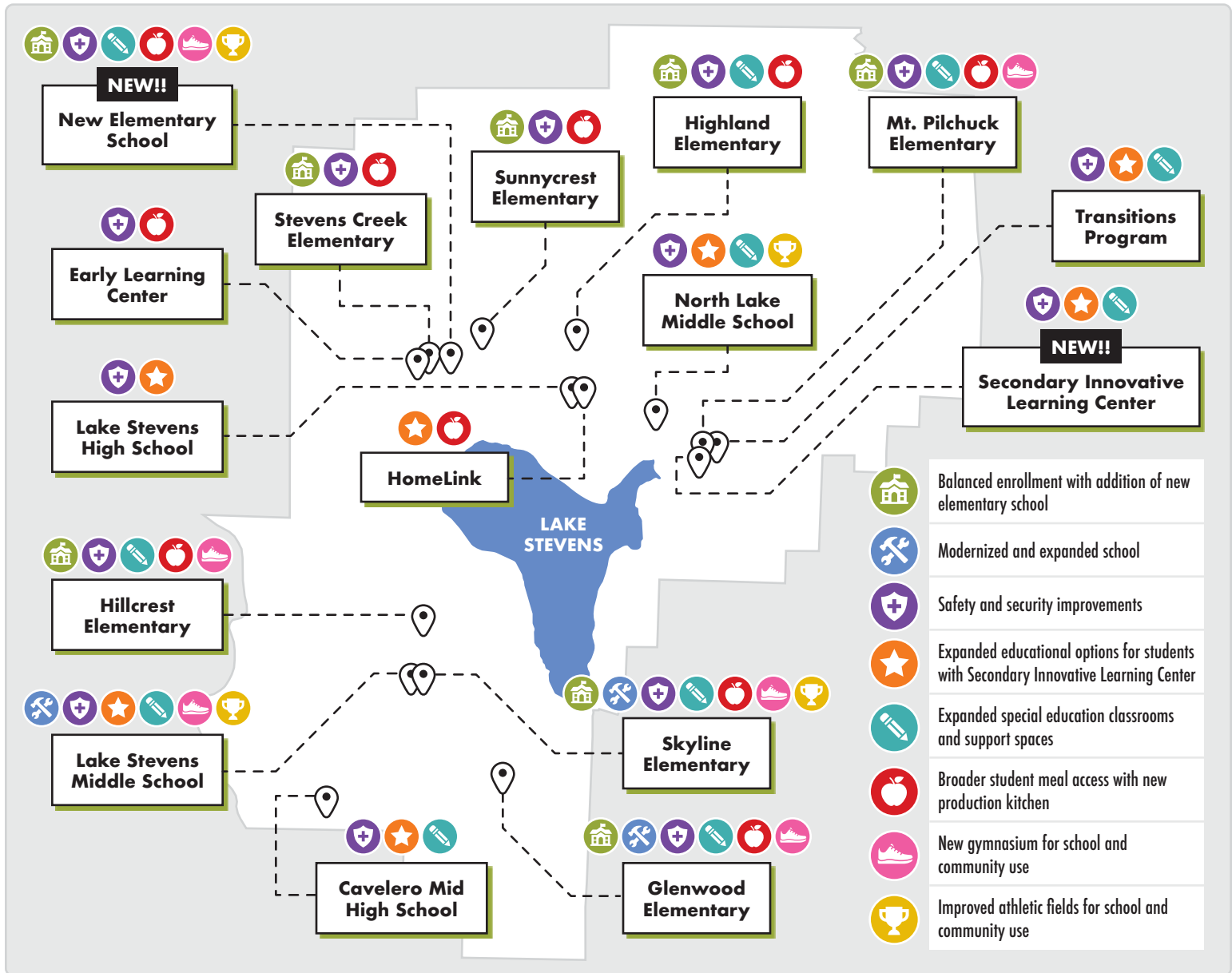
Cavelero is expandable to become a second high school when enrollment in grades 9-12 reaches a point when it becomes necessary, but we are not at this point yet.

Q: If you're building a new elementary school to address capacity, won't that mean that we will need another middle school and high school?

A: Yes, but not yet. The most immediate need is in our elementary schools where there are more than 800 students learning in temporary classrooms.

As part of the bond, Lake Stevens Middle School will be modernized and expanded to support more students. Future bond projects could include modernizing and expanding North Lake Middle School, once it becomes eligible for state construction assistance funds. This will further support middle school capacity.

School construction bond will fund improvements across all schools



Before Cavero can become a second high school, we would need to build a third middle school. Eighth-graders would return to middle schools and ninth-graders would move up to the two high schools. If Cavero were to become a high school right now, there would be approximately 25 unused classrooms between it and LSMS.

While our enrollment is growing districtwide, the most immediate need is in our elementary schools.

Q: Why is the district proposing a new elementary school so close to Stevens Creek? Why not use the land at Lochsloy?

A: The majority of current and expected residential growth in our community is in the northwest portion of the district. The district-owned Lake Drive property, across from Stevens

Creek, is located in this growth area and already has the infrastructure in place (road, sewer, utilities) to support another school. When built, start and dismissal times for the two elementaries and the Early Learning Center will be staggered to reduce traffic and neighborhood impacts.

It is not uncommon for districts to build several schools on the same property, as land acquisition for districts can be very expensive and difficult. While we do own the Lochsloy property, it is in unincorporated Snohomish County, outside the Urban Growth Area, where development is not expected to occur and where schools are difficult to permit and build.

Do you have a question you want answered? Submit it to:

tellus@lkstevens.wednet.edu

NOVEMBER
— 2024 —
BOND

Inspiring Excellence
LAKE STEVENS
School District

Congratulations to our 2023-24 retirees!

Our Board of Directors honored the 2023-24 retirees at its May 22 meeting. Overall, these employees have served more than 700 years to our students, schools, district and community. Thank you, and congratulations!

Educational Services Center

- Dr. Ken Collins
- Rick Tanner
- Jim Weissert

Transportation Department

- Sam Busby
- Jeanie Murray
- Sharon Ward

Lake Stevens High School

- Barbara Frederick
- Todd Martina
- Karen Morton
- Sharon O'Brien
- Barbara Ossowski



Cavelero Mid High School

- Kathy Theisen
- Lewis Widmann

Lake Stevens Middle School

- Bill Anderst
- Mari Jo Elder
- Debbie Stalder
- Kathryn Van Klaveren

North Lake Middle School

- Renee Foudray
- Retta Grewelle
- Michelle Puha
- Larry Ruble
- Rachel Schwarzmiller
- Patty Studdard

Glenwood Elementary School

- Nancy Collins
- Carrie Larson

Hillcrest Elementary School

- Shari Dominick
- Cathy Richardson
- Trayce Zander

Skyline Elementary School

- Kimberly Hanegan

Stevens Creek Elementary School

- Tammie Enders

Sunnycrest Elementary School

- Derise Chavez-Hansen

ECRWSS Current Resident

Register to vote or update your registration

Are you a registered voter? Have you moved or changed your name? Registering to vote, or updating your registration is quick and easy.

Visit olvr.votewa.gov to get started.

Ready for KINDERGARTEN!



Aug. 19-21, 2024 | 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Help your child get Ready for Kindergarten!

We are hosting a Ready for Kindergarten program for incoming kindergarteners. This three-day opportunity from Monday, Aug. 19 to Wednesday, Aug. 21 offers a safe and welcoming introduction to elementary school for families and students, relieving many first-day anxieties. Transportation is provided if you sign up before July 31. Please RSVP at www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/kindergarten.

To participate, students must be enrolled for kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year. Enrollment packets are available on the district website and at the school district office. Children must be five-years-old by Aug. 31, 2024 to enroll in kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year. To enroll your child, please bring an official copy of their birth certificate, proof of immunization, and proof of residence in Lake Stevens School District. Enrollment is limited to those students who live within district boundaries.

The first day of school for kindergarten for the 2024-25 school year is Monday, Sept. 9.

SUPERINTENDENT
Ken Collins, Ed.D.

EDITOR
Jayme Taylor

DESIGN
Jonathan Sulzbach

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Mari Taylor, President • David Iseminger, Vice President • Paul Lund, Director • Dr. Nina Kim Hanson & Vildan Kirby, Co-Legislative Representatives

In accordance with RCW 49.60, the Lake Stevens School District does not discriminate in employment and schools. The Lake Stevens School District provides Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, sex, handicap/disability, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, creed, religion, age, veteran or military status, use of a trained dog to guide or service animal by a person with a disability, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and designated youth groups. The district complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations to include, but not limited to, Title IX, Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, RCW 49.60 "The Law Against Discrimination," and RCW 28A.640 "Sex Equity," and covers, but is not limited to, all district programs, courses, activities, including extracurricular activities, services, access to facilities, etc. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures should be directed to Lake Stevens School District, 12309 22nd St. NE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258, Attention: Title IX and Civil Rights Coordinator, John Balmer, (425) 335-1500, John_Balmer@lkstevens.wednet.edu or ADA Compliance Coordinator and Section 504 Compliance Coordinator, Miriam Tencate, (425) 335-1500, Miriam_Tencate@lkstevens.wednet.edu.