

# SCHOOL VIEWS

FALL 2023



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# Message from the *Superintendent*

Dear families and friends ~

Within the Snohomish community, there is a sense of pride in our schools. Whether you are new to the district or generations of your family went through the school system, student success and the quality of education reflects our community.

I'm excited to share with our community details about the district's five-year Strategic Plan. Through our district's core values – Student-Focused, Culture of Belonging, Equity, and Accountability - our students know they are not just a number or another face in the crowd. They know they matter. The Snohomish School District is committed to the important work that all district leaders, staff, and partners undertake to support all students. Our commitments to Teaching & Learning Excellence, Family & Community Engagement, Student & Staff Well-Being, and Resource Management, are informed by our core values and are dependent on the important work of each other. Read more about our district's Strategic Plan and the Annual Report in this issue of School Views.

As a district, we are excited to continue using technology in purposeful, innovative ways that engage our learners in exploring their world, imagining their futures, and turning dreams into action. Thanks to funding from the 2022 Replacement Levy for Technology, Safety and Facility Improvements, we were able to make student access to 1:1 devices possible this school year. I'm appreciative of our shared commitment to maintain the funding that helps our students excel in their learning and contribute to our community in adulthood. On the inside pages, learn more about how these devices are impacting student learning.

Great things are happening throughout our district! Also included in this issue is information about our district's collaboration with the Snohomish Lions Club to provide annual vision screening for our students, as well as a highlight about our Snohomish Aquatic Center's award-winning FlowRider instructor.

I'm appreciative of your partnership as we continue our work ahead to meet the needs of our students. Together, each of us plays a critical role in helping ensure that "every student thrives."

Thanks,  
Kent



*In late October, young learners marked their first day of school in our district's new pre-kindergarten program - Transition to Kindergarten. Learn about Transition to Kindergarten and the district's other early learning programs at [www.sno.wednet.edu/earlylearningprograms](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/earlylearningprograms).*

# Strategic Plan

provides five-year roadmap

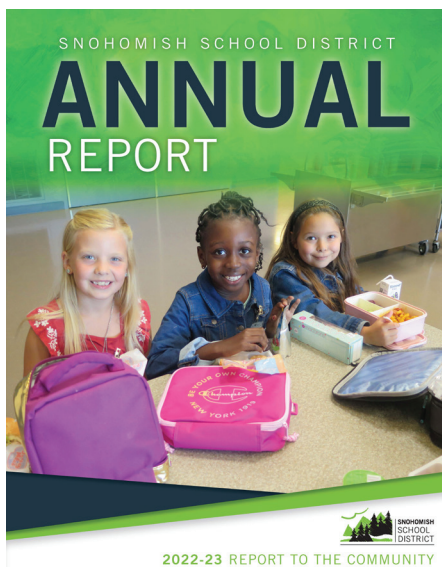
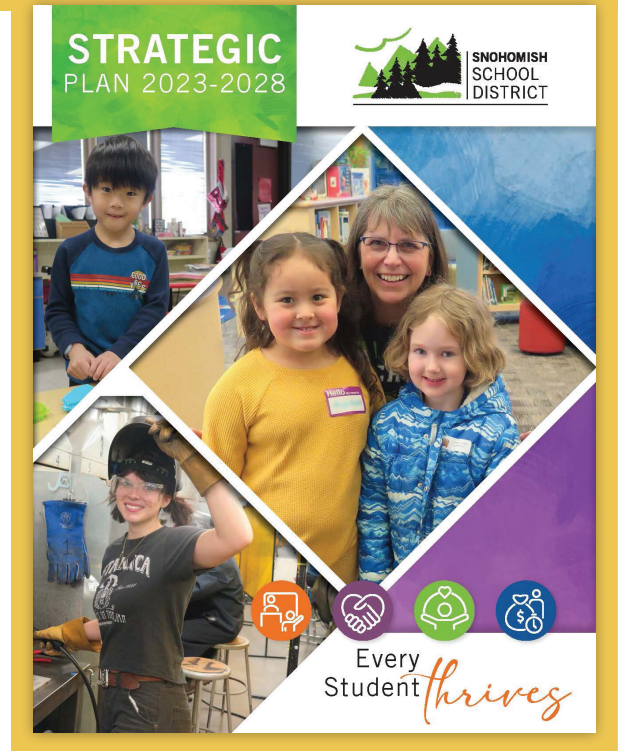
The 2022-2023 school year was marked by the development of the Snohomish School District Strategic Plan.

“This five-year roadmap brings intentionality to the everyday work of education, as it not only provides the opportunity to look forward, but also guides the district’s steps along the way,” said Superintendent Dr. Kent Kultgen.

Through an intensive process, hundreds of students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members came together to share their voices. From their input, a 26-member Strategic Planning Committee diligently worked to draft Strategic Plan framework elements including the district mission statement, vision statement, core values and our ongoing commitments to our students, staff, families, and community. They based their work in the traditions of Snohomish and coupled that with a shared vision for our future.

“The Strategic Plan is exciting as it allows us to share our vision with our community. This vision will bring together a partnership with our community, families, staff, and students,” added Kultgen. “It will guide our steps, determine best use of resources, and place student learning on the forefront. I look forward to sharing our progress with you and partnering with you along the way. Together, each of us plays a critical role in helping ensure that ‘every student thrives.’”

**Learn more about the district’s Strategic Plan at [www.sno.wednet.edu/strategicplan](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/strategicplan).**



The 2022-2023 Snohomish School District Annual Report shares pertinent information with our community and aligns with our Strategic Plan. This report is designed to provide parents/guardians and community members with important demographic, budget, facility, and student achievement data for school year 2022-2023 (September 1-August 31). The report was recently mailed to all district residents. You can also find a pdf of the document at [www.sno.wednet.edu/annualreport](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/annualreport).



# District helps prepare students to be future ready



## Snohomish School District students have been provided with a 1:1 device to aid in their learning.

This technology shift for the school district of providing every district student with a device (laptop, touch screen or iPad) began this school year (2023–2024). Students in grades 5–12 have dedicated devices for home/school. Students in grades K–4 have dedicated devices that remain in the classroom. Approval of the district’s 2022 Replacement Levy for Technology, Safety and Facility Improvements made student access to these devices possible.

“In today’s digital world, it’s important to offer both direct instruction and digital learning opportunities to meet the K-12 digital standards along with meeting the needs of a global market,” said Monica Bauer, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning Services. “Having 1:1 devices allows for more time on learning tasks and gives equitable opportunity for all learners. In addition, having these devices gives a sense of pride and develops our students’ confidence in their educational experience knowing they are utilizing the tools of a 21st century education.”

Bauer added that teacher and staff access to these devices is essential to support students in learning healthy and appropriate use of

technology while in a safe space within the classroom. “For students to be productive and positive contributors to the technology community, they need guidance, instruction, and modeling from adults,” she said.

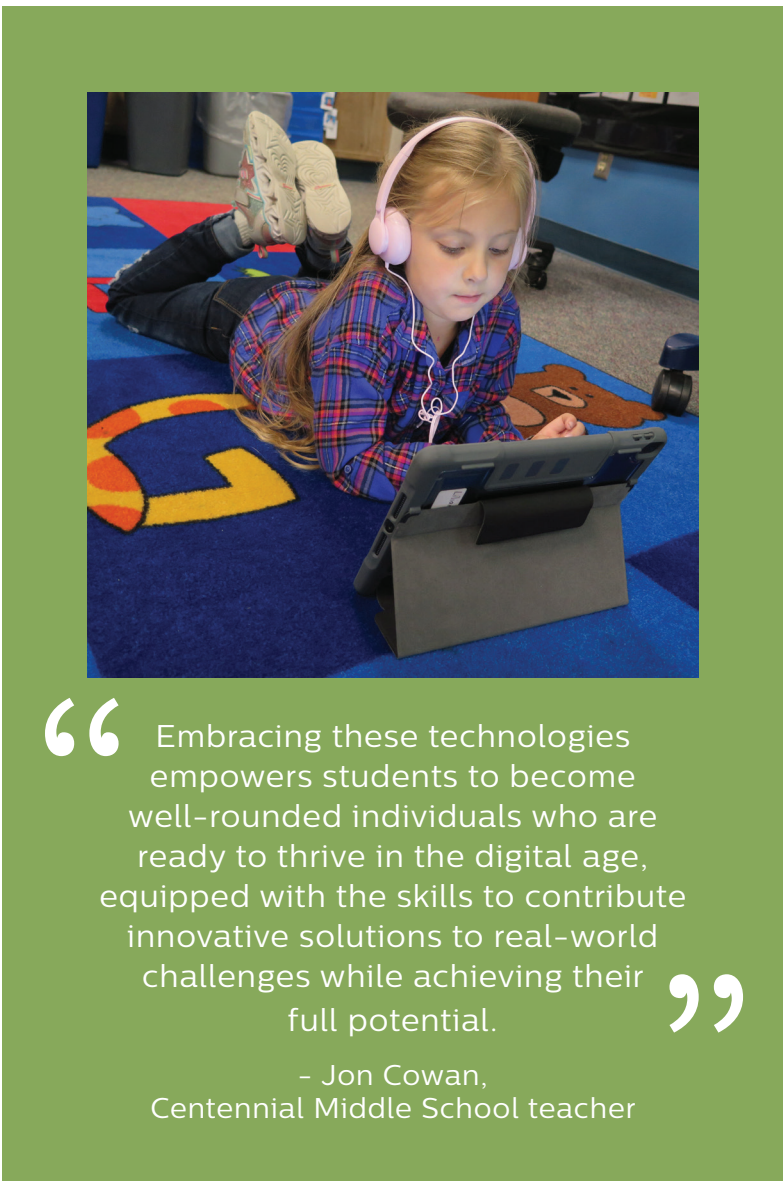
Centennial Middle School teacher Jon Cowan noted that student access to devices such as laptops and tablets are essential for learning and instruction, as they not only prepare students for the job market of the future, but also provide them with personalized learning experiences. These devices play a critical role in developing students’ digital literacy skills, fostering collaboration and communication, and nurturing creativity and innovation.

“By integrating laptops and tablets into instructional practices in the classroom, students gain the technical proficiency, adaptability, and problem-solving mindset required for success in a digital technology-driven workforce,” said Cowan. “Embracing these technologies empowers students to become well-rounded individuals who are ready to thrive in the digital age, equipped with the skills to contribute innovative solutions to real-world challenges while achieving their full potential.”

Valley View Middle School teacher Erika Robbins shared examples of real-world connections students are able to make beyond classroom walls. Her 8th grade science classes recently collaborated with college mentor students from around the nation while working through an engineering project. Additionally, students have connected through computer simulations, coding programs, live messaging applications, and

Zoom sessions and have collaborated with NASA scientists, engineers, and other professionals to seek support and learning.

“These experiences are at the heart of real-world learning that help build successful skills students can carry with them throughout their lives and would not be possible without the aid of student devices,” said Robbins. “Technology can be such a powerful tool when implemented appropriately in the classroom. I am excited to see what future opportunities we can provide for our students as we move forward in our district’s technology plan.”



“Embracing these technologies empowers students to become well-rounded individuals who are ready to thrive in the digital age, equipped with the skills to contribute innovative solutions to real-world challenges while achieving their full potential.”

– Jon Cowan,  
Centennial Middle School teacher

Learn more about how the district is helping prepare students to be future ready at [www.sno.wednet.edu/futureready](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/futureready) and more about the district’s technology plan at [www.sno.wednet.edu/technologyplan](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/technologyplan).

## Coming into focus

### Lions Club partners with district on student vision screenings

Annual vision screenings in our schools are helping find students whose vision may be impacting their development, learning, and even classroom behaviors. Through our district’s partnership with the Snohomish Lions Club, each year about 5% of district students are identified as having vision issues needing follow-up care.

Each autumn, Lions Club members volunteer as vision screeners in our schools, where thousands of students are screened for vision issues. In addition to volunteer vision screeners, the Snohomish Lions have also funded the purchase of two Spot Vision Screeners for the district. These screeners have been essential to school nurses who use them to annually screen students, monitor on-going vision concerns presented by staff and families, and provide data for evaluations.

“Vision screening plays a critical role in the school setting, as it allows us to identify potential issues with visual acuity,” said Chrissy Hawkins, nurse at Machias Elementary. “Many students do not display any symptoms of vision issues, so the screening process allows for early detection and intervention, which helps reduce the educational and social-emotional impacts for our students.”

Learn more about how the Snohomish Lions Club partners with our school district to improve student well-being at [www.sno.wednet.edu/lionsclub](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/lionsclub).







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*Did you know the majority of people who live in the Snohomish School District do not have school-aged children? The purpose of School Views is to let our community know about the programs,*

*events and activities happening in their Snohomish School District. To reduce the cost of postage we use a bulk mailing process that delivers to every residential customer on a carrier's route.*

## FlowRider instructor makes a splash



Snohomish Aquatic Center FlowRider instructor Scott Callens has accomplished incredible feats in the flowboarding world, recently receiving first place in the pro category at national and world competitions.

“We are so fortunate to have instructors like Scott on our Snohomish Aquatic Center team,” said facility supervisor Chris Bensen. “Scott has participated in and won many competitions. Our FlowRider students are truly learning from a master at his craft, and our guests are lucky to be able to witness Scott do some amazing tricks on the board.”

Flowriding or flowboarding is a hybrid water sport that takes influence from surfing, skateboarding, wakeboarding, snowboarding and bodyboarding.

This sport is practiced and performed on a FlowRider, which is a simulated surf machine. The Snohomish Aquatic Center has the only indoor surf simulation machine in the Pacific Northwest and the center's open surf times attract beginners of all ages, water sport and winter sport enthusiasts, and everyone in between.

“Flowboarding is pretty easy to learn,” said Callens. “I know a lot of people feel intimidated by it, but really, the surface of the FlowRider is like being on a trampoline. It's a very forgiving surface. I would encourage more people to give it a shot and just have fun with it.”

**Learn more about the Snohomish Aquatic Center, the FlowRider, and Callens' achievements at [www.snohomishaquatic.com](http://www.snohomishaquatic.com).**