

# SCHOOL VIEWS

FALL 2021



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the Superintendent

Teacher honored with national award

Students, staff welcome return to classrooms!

District senior citizens invited to join Golden Kla Ha Ya Club



# Message from the Superintendent

Dear families and friends ~

It has been a tremendous start to a productive school year. We are so thankful to see our students back on campus. By the smiling eyes I see above their masks, I know they are also happy to be back.

Students are moving forward in their learning. Masks/face coverings, hand washing, and social distancing have become routine and are keeping transmission of the COVID-19 virus low at school. Many thanks to our students and their families, our teachers and support staff, and this community for collaborating to bring in-person learning back to Snohomish schools.

This is what makes our community so wonderful. Our ability to come together, work together and support one another when it is needed.

That support comes through loud and clear in the recent announcement of Niche ratings. Snohomish School District is in the top 25 school districts in Washington state. We rise to the 13th best district in the Puget Sound area and the second-best district in Snohomish County.

Niche ranks nearly 100,000 schools and districts based on statistics and millions of opinions from students and parents. Rankings are based on data from the U.S. Department of Education along with test scores, college data, and ratings collected from millions of Niche users. Our district also received high marks for our teachers, safety, the opportunities we have for students, and Snohomish ranks fifth in the state for athletics. All these areas are supported by our community in spirit and in partially or totally supported with dollars through the local school Educational Programs and Operations Levy.

Overall, the levy fills the 12% gap between what the state funds and what it really takes to provide a full and rich learning experience for our almost 9,300 students. This local levy expires next year along with the Technology Levy. The Tech Levy was vital in our response to the pandemic and continues to play a pivotal role in how we prepare young people for success after high school graduation.

Watch for more levy renewal information in the mail and on the website as we get closer to the February 8 election date.

Another way youth are gaining experience for their future is through the many vocational classes offered in our Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. Read inside about Snohomish High's Kathy Purviance-Snow, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) and social studies teacher who has been with us for 18 years. Her work was recently recognized with the prestigious NEA Foundation Horace Mann Award.

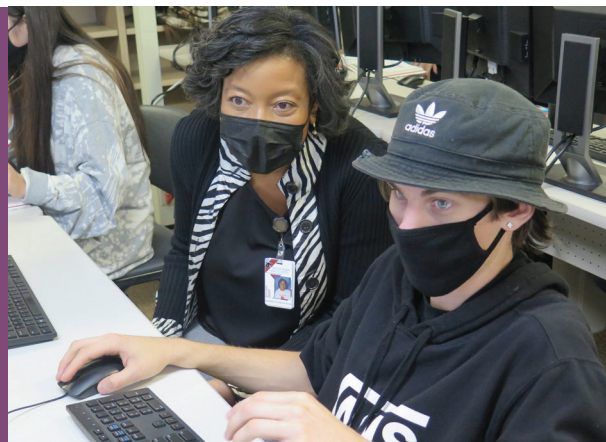
It is my honor to serve as your superintendent. Please don't be shy about asking questions or letting me know what's on your mind. As American author and educator Helen Keller said, alone we can do so little; together we can do so much!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Kent Kultgen



*The Snohomish High School Class of 1942 recently celebrated its 80th class reunion at Snohomish Carnegie. This wonderful group of Panthers is 98 years young!*

# Teacher honored with *national award*



Being named one of only five Horace Mann Award for Teaching Excellence recipients in the nation this year was a shock for teaching veteran Kathy Purviance-Snow.

“It is beyond anything I could imagine,” said Purviance-Snow who teaches several business education and social studies at Snohomish High School. Her colleagues were not surprised she was honored for her work in the classroom.

“She has a passion for her profession,” said Deb Koenig, the district’s director of Career and Technical Education (CTE). Koenig cited Purviance-Snow’s zeal for connecting with her students by providing real world experiences such as inviting a local court judge to oversee a mock trial in her classroom. When COVID-19 stymied students’ ability to operate the Panther Café Espresso Cart, she worked with students to

develop a web-based ordering system and a limited product menu. This allowed students to continue learning their entrepreneurial and employability skills in a safe manner.

Purviance-Snow’s business courses are part of the district’s CTE programs. These courses are what many community members would remember as vocational. Snohomish School District offers a variety of career pathways including agriculture science, business and marketing, family and consumer science-hospitality, health sciences and pre-engineering design, production and manufacturing.

For more than 20 years, the NEA Foundation and Horace Mann have celebrated outstanding educators from around the country. Purviance-Snow will be celebrated at a gala in February. Her award also comes with a \$10,000 cash prize.

**Learn more at [www.sno.wednet.edu/news](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/news).**



## *Did you know?*

- 80% of high school students taking both CTE and college prep courses meet college and career readiness goals versus 63% of high school students taking college prep courses alone.
- Six in 10 students are planning to pursue a career in a CTE area they are exploring in high school.
- Students enrolled in courses are significantly more likely to develop problem-solving, project completion, research, communication, time management and critical thinking skills in high school.

(Information provided by the Association for Career and Technical Education.)

# Students, staff welcome *return to classrooms!*



School halls are noisier this fall. And that increased volume is music to the ears of Snohomish School District staff and the almost 9,300 students who returned to full-time, in-person learning this fall.

“Kids and staff are excited to be back at school,” said Sam Hanson, Emerson Elementary principal.

In March 2020, COVID-19 shut down in-person learning at public schools in Washington state and across the nation. The youngest students – kindergarten to 2nd grade – returned full time last spring. Older students in grades 3-12 attended in a hybrid schedule – typically two days per week with about half the students attending at one time to ensure social distancing. All students transitioned into full-time, in-person instruction in September 2021.

Today the school day looks as close as possible to what students experienced prior to the pandemic. Health and safety measures are still in place such as social distancing, masks/face coverings, improved ventilation and an emphasis on consistent and thorough hand washing to reduce the spread of the virus. Hand sanitizer is available in the classroom and in other areas in the school.

During the school day, custodial staff continually disinfect high-touch areas such as doorknobs and stair railings. Desks are cleaned daily as well. These tasks are on top of the regular cleaning necessary for a safe and healthy school. In addition, filters within the air ventilations systems are on a 16-week replacement cycle to meet new air quality standards.

However not all families were ready for that step back to in-person instruction this fall. At that time, no vaccine was available for elementary school age children. Snohomish school leaders heard their concern and set up an online instruction program – Snohomish K-6 Remote – as an option for those students.

Hanson is also the principal of that program that serves about 160 students. These students live in neighborhoods across the district. Remote instruction teachers and the in-person Emerson staff operate on the same campus and collaborate as one professional teaching community.

Hanson and educators are aware of the academic gaps the pandemic forced. All those within the educational system are working diligently to help every student move their learning forward regardless of which instruction model they are studying under.

Social and emotional health is as important for student learning as academic instruction. To excel, Hanson stresses students need to feel good about themselves and be with friends. In-person learners are benefiting from greater social contacts with classmates, he said. Online teachers incorporate ways for children to connect and get to know their classmates outside of formal instruction.

On the Emerson Elementary campus, Hanson sees a lot of smiling eyes above the required face masks for indoor activities. Children may remove their face coverings while outside. They are reminded to practice social distancing on the playground.

“We know the pandemic did not treat people well,” Hanson said. “We all have moments that are hard to handle, but I believe we are definitely on the road back to thriving.”

Learn more at [www.sno.wednet.edu/news](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/news).

## CHECK UP ON NURSES

Snohomish students have returned to campus, but the pandemic is not over. School nurses are on the front lines of keeping students healthy and safe.

“This is one of the most challenging situations of my professional career,” said Kris Pieper, MSN, RN, Snohomish High School nurse. Pieper is one of more than a dozen school nurses across the Snohomish School District. The school nurse is charged with navigating the evolving COVID-19 safety rules for those exposed to COVID-19 and those testing positive for the virus. There is a nurse dedicated to each school in the district.



“There are many more pieces to this puzzle than what a school nurse normally does,” Pieper explained.

Pieper added that the pandemic has raised the bar on many of the typical sniffles, a cough, or upset stomach that most children feel from time to time. If a student or staff member shows symptoms while at school, they will be isolated until they can go home. An ill student is likely to be asked to wait in a dedicated room where they are not near others until a parent/guardian arrives to take them home.

“There are so many unknowns and unknowns can be scary” said Chrissy Hawkins, BSN, RN, Cascade View Elementary nurse. She and Pieper said students seem to be knowledgeable of COVID-19 precautions and accepting of the need to quarantine when exposed or feeling symptoms. Anyone with symptoms is encouraged to get tested. Those with negative results may miss less class time.

In addition to COVID-19, the school nurse is also responsible for so many more health and medical issues within the school. School nurses are responsible for tending to the usual playground bumps and bruises, writing student care plans for those with health conditions that might interfere with learning, administering daily medications that those conditions might require and supporting medically fragile students to ensure they can fully access their education.

“Our students, staff and families do a good job of taking care of each other and taking care of themselves,” Hawkins said. “We are part of a wonderful community.”

Learn more at [www.sno.wednet.edu/news](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/news).

## STAFF AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

Glacier Peak High School paraeducator Brian Quantrille starts each day checking for new attendance alerts. He calls each quarantined or isolated student to reassure them that staying home is the right thing to do.

“Most kids are pretty upset they cannot come to school when they are sick or a close contact of someone who tested positive,” he said. “I remind them of all the resources they have available and be sure they know that no matter what the Glacier Peak staff is here for them.”

Depending on the severity of symptoms, most students can keep up with their assignments with district-provided resources. Laptop computers can be brought from school to home. Sometimes the need is access to the internet. In those cases, a wi-fi hot spot is provided by the district. Online access is vital to catch up and keep up on studies. The district utilizes a learning management system called Canvas that allows students to access the day’s lessons and activities.

“My focus is to keep both sides – teachers and students – communicating,” he said. “I want to ensure everyone is treated fairly and equitably.”

Longtime Snohomish High School guidance counselor Sheri Adams is also part of the team helping keep students connected. She described her job as an advocate for students.

During the pandemic, Adams and her colleagues across the district are collaborating closely with school nurses, teachers, principals and school support staff. Students who are ill or have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 must stay home to prevent spreading the virus.

“Removing the roadblocks for students to catch up and keep up takes priority,” Adams said adding students who fall behind can become overwhelmed. “Counselors are part of a big team within schools who are cheerleaders to keep students on track and confident.”

Learn more at [www.sno.wednet.edu/news](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/news).





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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 have not mailed to a mailing list, but use a bulk mailing process that delivers to every residential customer on a carrier's route.*

# District senior citizens invited to join **Golden Kla Ha Ya Club**



In appreciation of their many years of generously supporting our students and schools, Snohomish senior citizens are invited to attend district home athletic events and drama productions free of charge. Snohomish School District residents who are 65-years-old or older are invited to apply to be Golden Kla Ha Ya Club members.

**For athletic events:** Present your Golden Kla Ha Ya Club membership card at the gate. Athletic event schedules are available at [www.wescoathletics.com](http://www.wescoathletics.com).

**For drama productions:** Call the number below to reserve your seat. Bring your membership

card to pick up your ticket at will-call. Your complimentary ticket will not be available at the box office without this prior arrangement.

- Snohomish High School: 360-563-4008
- Glacier Peak High School: 360-563-7504

To learn more about Golden Kla Ha Ya Club and download a registration form, visit [www.sno.wednet.edu/klahaya](http://www.sno.wednet.edu/klahaya). Forms can also be picked up and should be returned to the district's Resource and Service Center (1601 Avenue D in Snohomish). Seniors will be contacted when their membership cards are available for pick up.