



**Puyallup School District
Board of Directors**

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Superintendent’s Message:

As I reflect on this past school year, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our families, students, staff, and community members who contributed to making it such an exceptional year.

One of the highlights of my job is visiting the schools and classrooms across our district to witness the remarkable learning and achievements of our students. This success is made possible by the world-class teaching, support, and guidance provided by our dedicated, passionate, and caring staff and volunteers, as well as the efforts of our families in supporting their children’s education. Their commitment to excellence has created opportunities and environments where learning flourishes and dreams are nurtured.

I am incredibly proud to see our students taking full advantage of the supports, resources, and opportunities provided by our staff, families, and volunteers.

I have seen their determination, resilience, and dedication to their education. They have demonstrated that they can accomplish anything they set their minds to. Beyond academics, I have also observed their character and kindness. They have uplifted one another, formed strong friendships, and built a sense of unity, making our schools a place where everyone feels they belong.

Thank you to everyone who helps make our school district the extraordinary place it is. I look forward to all that we will achieve and experience in the 2024-2025 school year!

In gratitude,

Dr. John Polm, *Superintendent*



PUYALLUP SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Tradition of Excellence

Puyallup School District 3, P.O. Box 370, Puyallup, WA 98371

Upcoming Dates

AUG	5	School Board Meeting
AUG	19	School Board Meeting
SEP	3	School Board Meeting
SEP	4	First Day of School, Grades 1-12
SEP	9	First Day of School, Kindergarten
SEP	16	School Board Meeting

For more information:

Puyallup School District Communications
(253) 841-8703
communications@puyallupsd.org
www.puyallupsd.org

On the cover:

Class of 2024 graduation celebrations

Puyallup School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator: Gordon Brobbey, brobbg@puyallupsd.org, (253) 840-8863; 504/ADA Coordinator: Almai Malit, malitaa@puyallupsd.org, (253) 840-8849; Title IX Coordinator Staff: Amie Brandmire, brandmah@puyallupsd.org, (253) 841-8645; Title IX Coordinator Students: Gordon Brobbey, brobbg@puyallupsd.org, (253) 840-8863. 302 2nd St. SE, Puyallup, WA 98372.



Connections

Summer 2024

Community update from the Puyallup School District



Congratulations Class of 2024!

Join us in congratulating the incredible Puyallup School District Class of 2024! Last month, over 1,500 seniors walked across the graduation stage at the Washington State Fairgrounds with diplomas in hands and bright futures awaiting them on the other side.

The 13-year journey from kindergarten to graduation is not an easy one, but these graduates have persevered through the individual and collective challenges they have faced with determination, focus, and grace. We commend and congratulate each of them and the countless hands who have supported and guided them along the way.

If you missed any of the graduation ceremonies or just want to relive the joy, you can watch the recordings on the district’s YouTube channel.



Shaw Road Student Helps Her School "Stick it to Stigma"

Maggie Klein is a remarkable sixth grader at Shaw Road who is making a significant impact on her school community.

Not only is she an excellent student and the president of the student council, but she is also a courageous advocate for mental health awareness. Maggie openly shared her experiences with ADHD and anxiety, believing that her transparency can help other students feel less alone.

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month back in May, Maggie collaborated with the school counselor, Meredith Cromis, to create a "Stick it to Stigma" bulletin board. This innovative project aimed to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues by encouraging students and staff to share their experiences anonymously.

As part of this school's monthly student news program, Trailblazer TV, Maggie issued a heartfelt challenge to her peers. She invited everyone to write down a mental health issue they faced—whether it's a fear of public speaking or anxiety—and post it on the bulletin board. The

goal was to fill the board with sticky notes, visually demonstrating that mental health challenges are common and nothing to be ashamed of.

The "Stick it to Stigma" bulletin board overflowed with sticky notes, each one a testament to the shared experiences of our students and staff. Maggie hopes the initiative will foster a more supportive and understanding environment within her school when it comes to mental health.

"By the time we are adults, more than half of us will have dealt with a mental health challenge," said Maggie. "So there is no reason to be ashamed or embarrassed if you have a mental health challenge or have worked on one."

We are incredibly proud of Maggie for her leadership and bravery in addressing such an important issue. Her efforts are helping to create a more inclusive and compassionate community. Let's all take Maggie's challenge to heart and do our part to "Stick it to Stigma."



Maggie Klein, Shaw Road, student council president advocates, and mental health advocate, openly sharing her experiences with ADHD and anxiety to help others feel less alone.

Maplewood Teacher Wins KING 5 Hometown Heroes Contest and a New Car

One of our teachers received a very special surprise earlier this spring. You may have read on our website that Maplewood Elementary teacher Ryan Lopez was a finalist in the King 5 Hyundai Hometown Heroes contest with a chance to win a brand-new car.



Maplewood Elementary teacher Ryan Lopez beams with joy upon learning he's a finalist in the King 5 Hyundai Hometown Heroes contest. He was surprised at school with the announcement of his win and a new Hyundai Santa Fe SUV.

After weeks of public voting, representatives from King 5 and Hyundai USA stopped by Maplewood on May 30 to make the surprise announcement that Mr. Lopez was the winner of the contest and presented him with keys to a new Hyundai Santa Fe SUV.

Mr. Lopez was nominated for the award by a group of his students' parents. In their nomination, they noted that "Mr. Lopez is a unicorn in the teaching world. His dedication and effort to making a difference is unmatched. One step inside his classroom and this is immediately obvious. Helping children learn and grow is his passion, and you can see it when you watch him work with them. He doesn't just teach the materials. He takes the curriculum and then creates activities/experiments that provide a lesson on the topic in an interactive, relevant way that the kids understand and quickly grasp."

For his part, Mr. Lopez said he was shocked by the recognition and award, but mostly grateful to those who nominated him and have supported him throughout his teaching career. "Being nominated by the parents of my students is the ultimate compliment to my practice. If parents and guardians can capture my 'why' at home from conversations and feelings of their kids, then I must be doing something right," said Lopez. "I am so thankful to my past and current colleagues, students and families that have allowed me to develop my practices at their expense. All along they've allowed me to fail, take risks, and grow; trusting I had their best interests in mind. I have many to thank and am beyond blessed. Thank you to the Maplewood Elementary community for welcoming me in and treating me like family and believing in me."

Rogers High School Selected as an AVID Program National Demonstration School



Rogers High School students and staff proudly display their AVID National Demonstration School sign, celebrating their top 1 percent achievement in the AVID program.

Congratulations to Rogers High School on being selected by AVID.org as a National Demonstration School!

This achievement places Rogers High School in the top 1 percent of AVID's 8,000 programs across the country.

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is an international educational program designed to support students in their journey through high school and beyond. It focuses on instruction, rigor and college preparedness. In order to be selected as a National Demonstration School. The RHS AVID program demonstrated excellence in those areas, offering students the opportunity to excel academically and pursue higher education goals.

Puyallup High School Receives Donation of Two Cars from Toyota of Puyallup

This spring, the Puyallup High School (PHS) Auto Tech Program received a generous donation and classroom upgrade from Toyota of Puyallup.

Earlier this spring, the Puyallup High School (PHS) Auto Tech Program received a generous donation and classroom upgrade from Toyota of Puyallup. Leadership staff from the local auto dealership visited the PHS Auto Garage, surprising the Viking Student Mechanics with two vehicles for their classes: a 2012 Chevy Malibu and a Toyota RAV4. The students, who were recently working on cars with outdated auto technology, will now have the opportunity to get up-to-date, hands-on experience.

Wayne Bridges, Toyota of Puyallup's Director of Technician Training and a PHS Auto Tech Advisory Board Member, also overlooks the dealership's on-the-job tech training program, giving an opportunity to those interested in becoming certified auto technicians. Along with emphasizing the significance of the students learning about modern auto technology, he mentioned it gives them a head start if they become interested in joining the program after graduation.

"It's really critical that they (students) learn about the new automobiles," Bridges said. "They need to be exposed to those types of systems, especially the safety features that are on newer cars with the collision-avoiding systems, anti-lock brakes, and traction control."

PHS Auto Tech Instructor Christian Tamiesie added, "Working on newer vehicles is very helpful because students that want to go in the field need experience on things that are relevant today rather than things that are 30 or 40 years old. It's going to be a huge benefit to the program to have these cars."

Toyota of Puyallup President & General Manager Kerry Odeman says she hopes the donation will inspire students to join the automotive industry, which offers different career pathways. "The industry is lacking technicians right now," Odeman said. "For us to be able to give back in this way to help them learn is paramount. Giving students new tools and modern vehicles to support hands-on learning for the autos of the future that they're going to be hopefully working on and pursuing careers in that field."

PHS Auto Tech Student and 10th-grade student Hunter Ihlen, grew up watching his stepfather work on cars since he was 10. He wants to have a career in the auto industry doing restoration, and understands the significance of getting hands-on exposure to modern vehicles.

"Every car model is built differently," Ihlen said. "You get to see all different types of parts that go into them. Every car manufacturer is different, so it will help us see all the different types of cars."

PHS Auto Tech Student and 11th grade student Siena Fellhauer added "The newer technology in the cars that we are receiving will help us improve our knowledge on how they work and how we can repair them."

Thank you, Toyota of Puyallup, for giving our students a boost in the classroom!



Puyallup High School Auto Tech Students observe cars donated from Toyota of Puyallup.

Deadline extended! Call for Volunteers: Help Shape the Future of PSD Facilities

We need your help! We are actively seeking parents, students, businesses, and community members from all areas of our district to volunteer for a bond advisory committee. Your unique insights and experiences will help develop crucial recommendations for the Puyallup School Board.

You can make a difference in our students' educational experience and well-being.

Apply now through August 23, 2024:
<https://bit.ly/4cehkdx>

To learn more about the Bond Advisory Committee:
<https://bit.ly/4cehkdx>.

Puyallup PTAs Honored at Washington State PTA Convention



Puyallup PTA leaders representing the community at the Washington State Parent Teacher Association (WSPTA) Conference.

The Puyallup School District is excited to announce that several PTA leaders and school PTAs were recognized at the Washington State PTA (WSPTA) Convention for their outstanding leadership, membership growth, and dedication to the well-being of students.

The WSPTA Leadership Service Award 2024 acknowledges the leadership skills attained by PTA leaders throughout all levels of the association. Congratulations to the following Puyallup PTA leaders who earned recognition at the WSPTA Convention:

Bronze Level
Kathia Corona, Pope Elementary PTA President
Katie Diaz, Pope Elementary PTA Vice President

Bronze and Silver Level
Chhunla McKeever, Puyallup PTA Council President

Several local PTAs were also honored for their achievements in membership growth and staff involvement:

Platinum Membership: Increase of at Least 120% Membership from the Prior Year
Brouillet Elementary PTA
Karshner Elementary PTA
Sunrise Elementary PTA
Wildwood Park Elementary PTA
Ferrucci Jr High School PTSA

Gold Membership: Increase of at least 110% Membership from the Prior Year
Fruitland Elementary PTA
Spinning Elementary PTA
Edward Zeiger Elementary PTA

Silver Membership: Increase of at least 105% Membership From the Prior Year
Stewart Elementary PTA

100% Staff Membership Award - Gold Level: Recognizes PTAs that have Enrolled the Same Number of Staff as the Number of Certificated Staff in their School Building.
Fruitland Elementary PTA
Carson Elementary PTA
Pope Elementary PTA
Northwood Elementary PTA
Firgrove Elementary PTA

The Puyallup School District is grateful for the dedication and commitment of our PTA leaders and members who tirelessly work to improve the lives of our students and families. Their efforts are a testament to the strong collaboration between our schools and community!



Seeking Applicants for Bond Advisory Committee

We are actively seeking parents, students, businesses, and community members from all areas of our district to volunteer for a bond advisory committee. Your unique insights and experiences will help develop crucial recommendations for the Puyallup School Board. Learn more and apply on our website.

New Student Enrollment

Online enrollment is now available for Kindergarten through 12th grade students for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. Visit our website for more information and to register.

PSD Schools Recognized by State Board of Education

Last month, five schools in the Puyallup School District were recognized by the Washington State Board of Education (SBE) for exceptional student support during the 2021-22 school year.

Along with over 300 schools and educational programs across the state, five PSD Schools Hunt Elementary, Northwood Elementary, Ridgecrest Elementary, Woodland Elementary, and Puyallup High School.

Congratulations, and thank you for your tireless efforts in making a difference for our students!



Link to these topics and the latest information by scanning the QR code to the left or visit us online at www.puyallupsd.org

Critical Repairs and Upgrades Across Puyallup School District

Thanks to your support and taxpayer investment in the 2024 Capital Levy, we are making critical repairs across several schools in the district. This includes essential work on Maplewood’s roof and cupolas, ensuring our historic

building remains safe and beautiful for years to come. Additionally, the Capital Projects crew is busy removing old vinyl composition tile from the hallways at Meeker Elementary. For more updates, follow Foundations for our Future on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PSDFoundationsForOurFuture

