

Open Line

Fall 2024



Continuous Student Learning in a Caring, Engaging Environment



TUMWATER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33
621 LINWOOD AVE. SW
TUMWATER, WA 98512-8499

Building a Vision for the Future Launching our Strategic Planning Process

After several years without a formal strategic plan, our district is embarking on an exciting journey to shape the future of our schools. This strategic planning process will serve as a roadmap, guiding our decisions and ensuring we stay focused on providing the best possible education for every student.

We believe that creating a successful plan starts with collaboration. Over the coming months, we will engage with families, students, staff, and community members to gather insights and ideas. Together, we will assess where we are today, envision where we want to go, and develop actionable steps to get there.

This is more than just a plan—it's a shared vision that will align our resources, goals, and efforts for years to come.

We invite you to serve as a member of our Core Planning Team. The team consists of a cross-section of all participants, including students, parents, community representatives, teachers, administrators, and staff. Members of our school board will be involved as well.

Because it is composed of internal and external participants, the Core Planning Team takes the lead in setting the broad direction for the strategic plan, and integrating the feedback and perspectives of other district and community teams that will be involved at various points along the way. We anticipate inviting 50-60 people to serve on this Core Planning Team. As a member of the team, we ask you to commit to attending every team meeting; we need your presence and ideas at every step of the process, as we weave together a plan that fits our district's unique context.



BHHS students work on building a plane as part of their Aviation class, showcasing how our strategic planning process aims to provide enriching hands-on learning opportunities and career pathways for every student.

A team of experienced facilitators from Performance Fact, Inc. will guide us through the process. Your participation in these meetings is essential to developing a strategic plan that facilitates the building of a stronger school system for the benefit of our students, staff, and community. The Strategic Plan is slated for completion by late-Spring 2025.

If you are interested in joining our Core Planning Team, please scan the QR code and complete the survey by Wednesday, January 8, 2025 to let us know you are interested in being part of this important and exciting work! We will reach out to you to confirm that you have been selected to serve on this team. If you are unable to scan the code, please reach out to Meagan.Dawson@tumwater.k12.wa.us. Thank you!

Scheduled Meetings:

1/21/2025	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
1/22/2025	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
2/13/2025	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM (Online)
3/4/2025	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM (Online)
3/25/2025	8:00 AM - 11:00 AM (Online)
4/8/2025	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

EVERY VOICE COUNTS!



SCAN ME

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Kevin Bogatin, Superintendent

Dear TSD Community,

As we approach the holiday season and the close of the calendar year, I'm reminded of a powerful quote by Helen Keller, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." This year has shown me, time and again, the strength of our shared commitment to providing the best for our students, and I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible start to the school year we've had.

One of the highlights of our year so far has been the seamless start with our transportation services. Due to the dedication and diligence of our Human Resources and Transportation teams, we are thrilled to announce that, for the first time in several years, we've kicked off the year with a full team of drivers and transportation staff. Thanks to their hard work, our routes have run efficiently since day one, with no scheduled late routes. This achievement represents the tremendous effort, planning, and teamwork of many people, all focused on ensuring students arrive safely and on time each day.

Looking ahead, we are excited to share that we are launching a Strategic Planning process for the Tumwater School District. This initiative will be an opportunity to articulate a clear vision for our district's future and set a course for continued growth and success. Our goal is to create a roadmap that reflects the values and priorities of our community while positioning Tumwater as a place where every student can thrive. This work will involve input from staff, families, students, and community members, and we look forward to hearing your insights as we embark on this journey together.

Finally, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you. The support from our community—through encouragement, volunteerism, and engagement—makes all the difference. I am deeply honored to serve as your superintendent and to be part of such an extraordinary community. Together, we are making a positive impact on our students and their futures.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and trust. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful, restful holiday season and a happy new year. Here's to all we will accomplish together in the months ahead! "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Warmly,

Kevin Bogatin
Kevin Bogatin, Superintendent

CASCADIA HIGH SCHOOL: A Year of Growth and Firsts

Cascadia High School is an alternative learning experience in Tumwater School District, home to over 140 students, and continues to shine as a hub for alternative education. Offering flexible schedules through its daily two-session format, Cascadia meets the diverse needs of its students, ensuring every learner has the chance to thrive.

This year has been marked by many exciting “firsts.” Cascadia celebrated its first Graduation Information Night and FAFSA Workshop, supporting a record 58 graduating seniors. The district also bolstered support by hiring a new principal and a full-time counselor, enhancing leadership and access to vital resources.

Social-emotional learning is a key focus, with sensory tools added to help students manage stress and build resilience. On-campus support groups like Together, True North, Sea Mar, and Gravity provide consistent resources to meet students’ unique needs.

Along with enrollment, engagement is also on the rise, thanks to a renewed focus on extracurriculars. Increased ASB involvement, a Leadership class, and a growing school yearbook project have created opportunities for students to connect and take pride in their school. Club participation is climbing, fostering a stronger sense of belonging.

Looking outward, Cascadia is implementing its School Improvement Plan, which emphasizes community involvement. For the first time, students will assist with the district’s Holiday Assistance Program, showcasing their commitment to giving back to others.

With its dedicated staff and innovative approach, Cascadia High School continues to grow, paving the way for student success and building a vibrant, inclusive community.



Students and staff come together to share smiles, good food, and a sense of community at Cascadia High School’s school-wide barbecue—building connections and fostering belonging one meal at a time.

BALANCING THE BOOKS: Addressing Budget Challenges as we Support Our Schools

Written by Assistant Superintendent of Operations, Ben Rarick

As the Tumwater School District finishes the first quarter of the 2024-25 fiscal year, the executive leadership of our district is watching our finances very carefully to make sure every dollar counts for kids.

A series of initiatives are underway to continue our quest for financial and operational excellence, with the long-term goal of establishing Tumwater as a leader among school districts in operational best-practices. One such initiative is the work of the Budget Advisory Committee, a group of citizens, employees, and student advisors that meets regularly to provide input regarding district budget matters.

We would like to thank the voters of Tumwater, who have generously supported TSD through approved local levies to provide the resources necessary for a high-quality education that prepares all children for career and life. We now call on the State Legislature to meet its Constitutional obligation to make “ample provision” for public schools. Many districts around the region have been forced into cost-cutting measures to keep pace with state requirements, and the costs of inflation. As we approach the 2025-26 budget cycle, Tumwater School District expects to be no different. One evident change will be to transition our Open Line newsletters to a smaller, less frequently printed version, with plans to eventually phase out (planning for the 25-26 school year) most print materials that provide general district updates that are mailed to the greater community. We will continue to publish an online version of the Open Line that will be available on our website. This approach allows us to maintain communication while effectively managing costs.

We invite you to stay informed and involved regarding our budgets by following the work of the Budget Advisory Committee, viewing the presentations and financial reports to the school board, and most importantly, advocating with your local legislative representatives for the needs of all South Sound school districts. Please visit our Financial Services website at www.tumwater.k12.wa.us/departments/financial-services for more information. We are grateful for the continued support of our community!



Students in Tumwater Middle School’s orchestra class are making beautiful music together. Thanks to the support of our community and the passage of local Educational Programs & Operations levies, Arts education in our schools continues to thrive!

UPCOMING Theater Events

January
16, 17, 18, 23, 24 & 25

CLUE ON STAGE

7 pm,

Tumwater High School
Performing Arts Center

January 30, 31,
February 1, 6, 7 & 8

GEORGE ORWELL’S 1984

7 pm,

Black Hills High School
Performing Arts Center

Visit the school websites before
performances for ticket information.

Our schools include Black Hills High (BHHS), Cascadia High (CHS), Tumwater High (THS), Bush Middle (BMS), Tumwater Middle (TMS), Black Lake (BLE), East Olympia (EOE), Littlerock (LRE), Michael T. Simmons (MTS), Peter G. Schmidt (PGS), Tumwater Hill (THE), and New Market Skills Center (NMSC). Tumwater 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 programs. The following employees have been designated to handle inquiries or complaints of alleged discrimination: Meagan Dawson, Civil Rights Coordinator, 360-709-7030, Wendy Bromley, Title IX Coordinator, 360-709-7020, Andra Kelley-Batstone, 504 Coordinator, 360-709-7030, 621 Linwood Ave SW, Tumwater, WA 98512. Created by: Laurie Wiedenmeyer, Communications Director. Graphic Design: Lisa Wenham Graphic Design.