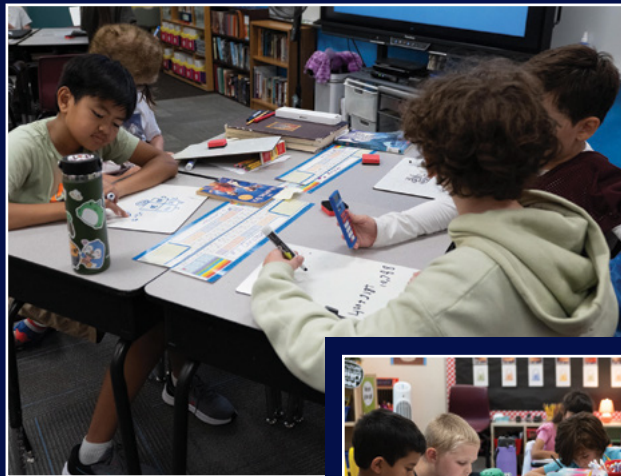




2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Powering Our Students For The Future



Superintendent Message

Phone-Free Schools

Colleges of MIHS Class of 2024

Student Journalism in MISD

Taking Care of Community Assets

www.mercerislandschools.org





Message from Superintendent Dr. Fred Rundle

Dear Mercer Island Community,

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your continued support and partnership. As we reflect on the past calendar year, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments our students and staff have achieved. Our students have been recognized both inside and outside the classroom for their efforts at local, state, national, and even global levels.

Their voices resonate strongly as they contribute to their communities through advocacy and awareness. Additionally, I am heartened by our collective commitment to fostering a deeper sense of belonging within our schools. We are dedicated to uplifting our students by instilling a belief in their limitless potential and actively seeking to remove any barriers that hinder their progress.

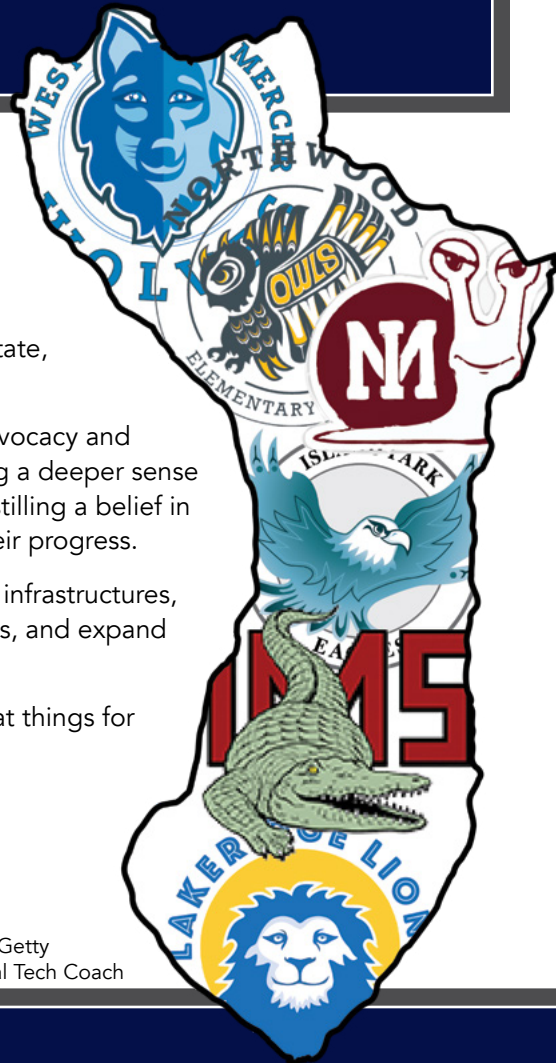
Looking ahead to 2025, we aim to partner with our community to invest in school infrastructures, explore creative financial solutions to address state and federal funding challenges, and expand opportunities for every student.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we can achieve great things for our students and our community.

Warm regards,

Dr. Fred Rundle, Superintendent

Graphic: Kristina Getty
MIHS Instructional Tech Coach



MISD Goes Phone-Free in 2024

Engaged Intellectually. Connected Socially. Distracted Minimally.

Expressed in our values, vision, and mission, MISD is committed to fostering whole-child learning by:

- Engaging students in thinking critically and solving problems creatively;
- Providing rigorous and challenging opportunities for students;
- Creating inclusive and equitable learning settings; and
- Ensuring our schools are safe and supportive.

To foster the vibrant learning environments we desire and promote healthy social and emotional development, MISD restricted access to personal cell phones, smart watches, and ear buds during the school day at Islander Middle School and Mercer Island High School. It is already a practice in our elementary schools that cell phones and smart watches are not allowed.

This new MI Phone-Free Schools policy has been implemented using Yondr pouches. Each student uses a Yondr pouch to safely and securely store their cell phones, smartwatches, AirPods/Earbuds, and any other personal cell devices. Prior to putting devices in their Yondr pouch students turn their cell phones off or put them in Do Not Disturb mode. Students keep their Yondr pouch with them during the course of the school day and are able to unlock the pouch at designated unlocking stations when leaving school for the day. The pouches lock using a mechanism similar to anti-theft tags found on items in clothing, sporting goods, and other stores.



Admittedly, students have not strictly adhered to using the Yondr Pouches as designed, but this was never the goal in the first place. The success is the nearly universal compliance with the expectation that students not access their cell phones and other devices during the school day.

“Taking away and focusing on phones was never the primary objective. The goal has been to improve student engagement in the classroom, create opportunities for greater social connection, and improve the overall culture in our schools. The phones just happened to be the barrier to these hopes for our students.”

–Superintendent Dr. Fred Rundle

This new policy has contributed to healthier relationships among students and improved learning environments in IMS and MIHS classrooms.

MIHS principal Nick Wold recently had a thoughtful conversation with a student about the new policy who recognized the importance of MI Phone-Free Schools.

“I am in total support of the new phone policy. I recognize now that even the buzz in my pocket was a subtle distraction and made me think about what I was missing while trying to learn in my class.”

–MIHS student

“The Yondr pouches have been a gift to my classroom. Where in previous years, phones were the number one classroom distraction, this year, phones have been a complete non-issue. I am grateful for my students’ willingness to create a phone-free learning environment, and notice how much more they are interacting in class and in the hallways. I encourage my students “wherever you are, be there fully,” and our district’s commitment to phone-free schools makes this possible.”

–IMS Language Arts teacher Whitney Swope.

Community members who want to learn more about MI Phone-Free Schools can visit www.mercerislandschools.org/cellphone

Meet The MISD School Board



Cristina Martinez
2024-2028
Position 1



Dan Glowitz
2022-2026
Position 2



Maggie Tai Tucker
2024-2028
Position 3



Deborah Lurie
2022-2026
Position 4



Jody Lee
2024-2028
Position 5

Dr. Fred Rundle
Superintendent
Secretary of the School Board

Student Representatives to the Board



Ava Zhang
Class of 2025



Lucy Dorer
Class of 2026

Mercer Island School District Board of Directors are elected to four-year terms. Their responsibilities include goal-setting; employing the superintendent; setting district policy; adopting an operating budget; placing levies and bonds before voters; and ratifying contracts. They read every email and listen to every speaker who provides public input at board meetings. They encourage community members to visit www.mercerislandschools.org/board to view meeting schedules, agendas, presentations, policies, and proposals.



Class of 2024



WASHINGTON

Bellevue College
Nicholas Mills
Hugo Beal
DigiPen Institute of Technology
Alex Sytman
Eastern Washington University
Lemai Mvududu
Gonzaga University
Bella Nguyen
Brandon Abulhosn
Claire Jacobs
Syver Lanctot
Tyler Affolter
Brandon Leavitt
Wonjoon Seo
Riley Cotton
Tyler Gilroy
Puget Sound University
Laleh Youssefieh
Peyton Sandwith
Sandra Ly
Seattle Central College
Emily Woo

Seattle Pacific University
Angela Agaian
Seattle University
Ashley Iwasaki
Connor Campbell
Rachael Yoo
Sebastian Foss
University of Washington
Addie Bergman
Abhay Raj
Alexander Skibinski
Brandon Fukano
Brandon Leavitt
Camelee Yee
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Douglas Stovall
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Jayne Loo
Johanna Berryman
John Tretheway
Kaya Gazioglu
Luca Cero

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Melissa Woo
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Moa Valentin
Muye Fang
Nandini Mishra
Nina Baston
Parker Doucette
Robert So
Simar Benepal
Sophia Freedman
Sophie Li
Susie Yang
Taylor Holshouser
Tanvi Penubothu
Tewodros Sanchez-Alemu
Varena Ronald
Zane Raissis
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Aiden Barham
Aiden Michaelis
Auralea Class-Welch
Cortez Smith
Ethan Chernicoff
Fei Campos
Kathryn Butson

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Daniel Marcus
Kenyon College
Cole Jones
Jack Levitt
Miami University
Annabel Rimmer

University of Idaho
Ella Martin
Max Murphy
Sam Orndorff
Murphy Martin

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Loyola University Chicago
Kindred McQueen
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Madison Liu
University of Chicago
Elena Lill
Thomas Plambeck
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Lucas Lessard

Boise State University
Paige Evans-Riera
Riley Samuels

Minnesota

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Ella Grogan
Nick Chou
Macalester College
Alexander Martin
Sophia Fan
University of Minnesota
Lydia Hogg
Maya Evans-Riera

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University of Michigan
Gareth Tatum
Kai Smith
Sam Pelter
Sophie Cartwright

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Indiana

Purdue University
Angela Lee
Ben Wu
Clark Koopman
Chris Lein
Elise Buckley

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Peyton Jordan

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Karen Zhang
New York University
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Logan Hsu
Macie Nordberg
Parsons School of Design
Natalie Lau
Pratt Institute
Izzy Ferrari
Rochester Institute of Technology
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Russell Sage College
Giovee Roque
Sarah Lawrence College
Gigi Lee
School of Visual Arts
Tricia Yen
Syracuse University
Dylan Shobe

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Cameron Selby
Jack Sieckhaus
Quincy Schwartz

Princeton University
Sol Park
Rutgers University - New Brunswick
Alexander Chen
Julia Pearman

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Colby College
Joe McCormack

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Carnegie Mellon University
Keegan Wang
Dickinson College
Amelie Schmid
Drexel University
Aaron Behar
Haverford College
Nick Klein
The Pennsylvania State University
Oliver Bellin
University of Pennsylvania
Zoë Paek
University of Pittsburgh
Annabelle Hopkins
Villanova University
Charlotte Morrison
Molly O'Mara

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Quinn Shavey
California Polytechnic State University
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Katherine Montpellier
Luke Myklebust
Trinabh Ponnappalli
Chapman University
Brandon Patacsil
Rhea Hanspal
Riley Pettigrew
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Griffin King
Dominican University of California
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Harvey Mudd College
Diego Silva
Loyola Marymount University
Petra Videriksen
Occidental College
Sophia Espinoza
Wren Grey Monroe
Pitzer College
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Point Loma Nazarene University
Cole Rowe
Poppy Walker
Pomona College
Maria Zhang
San Diego State University
Jackson Wold
Maddie Brown

Shane Deguchi
Spencer Kornblum
Stella Robins
Reis Ottaviani
Tommy Becker
Gavin Shea
Santa Clara University
Addie Schiller
Anthony O'Donnell
Christine O'Donnell
Meher Agarwal
Nathan Holan
Russell Nguyen
Scripps College
Elise McDonald
Stanford University
Ava Yeh
Kathy Shao
Sidh Shroff
Subha Vadlamannati
University of California, Berkeley
Claire Ryu
Magnus Dorre
University of California, Davis
Andrew Douthitt
Mica Moseley
Zoya Firasta
Darryl Wong
University of California, Los Angeles
Elliott Hoang
Daniella Van Blerkom
Megan Sandoval
Tyler Hsu
University of California, Irvine

Afton Fosseen
Ella Gao
Ethan Chang
Jackson Chang
University of California, Santa Barbara
Ahad Khan
Bella Rahin
Cody Fosseen
Linus Hykes
Silas Burkey
Sophie Hill
University of California, San Diego
Arthur Huang
Chloe Evenson
Woody Brown
Jayden Wang
Yuna Lin
University of San Diego
Griffin Frank
Mariana Munoz
Mia Vorkoper
Paige Kirby
University of Southern California
Hannah Goldstein
Julia Sommerfield
University of Redlands
Sophia Pacecca

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Aurora Evanoff
Mylan Bui
Violet Kinney
Izzie Biggs
Southern Oregon University
Safiya Chaudhry

University of Portland
Caitlin Monahan
Niko Ulshin
University of Oregon
Ben Katz
Adrian Fu
Lewis and Clark College
Gigi April

IDAHO

University of Wyoming
Lucia Morelli

Montana

Montana State University
Grace Castellanos
Mischa Gregory
Sam Grover

Iowa

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Alden Ritter
Brian Murdoch
Clara Mak
Emily Fain
Lila Medin
Grinnell College
Vivian Woare

VERMONT

Middlebury College
Peyton Jordan

PENNSYLVANIA

Johns Hopkins University
Aditi Mannby
Chloe Degracia
Yunjia Zhang

University of Maryland-College Park
Tyler Bienstock
United States Naval Academy
Alyssa Pangallo

MASSACHUSETTS

Babson College
Yuki Ye
Boston College
Asha Woener
Matthew Loeser
Nathan Wen
Sophia Tsepenyuk
Boston University
Aziza Lee
Evan Kuang
Kat Marsh
Mayen Nkposong
Brandeis University
Ansel Leveque
Luke Gollin
Emerson College
Connor Leung
Northeastern University
Jack Dalton
Javier Fernandez-Budiman
Parker Gurney
Sasha Shor
University of Delaware
Katie Friedman

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Joey Lurie
Harry Benson
Maya Eldridge Baker
Sinaya Geelan
University of Arizona
Ashlyn Powell
Durham French
Lila Micheau
Ryan Boyle

UTAH

University of Utah
Cade Bennett
Macy Poll
Payton Blosch

NEBRASKA

The University of Nebraska
Julian Jay

TEXAS

Rice University
Ben Viafore
Stella Chen
Texas Christian University
Madeline Trethewey
University of Texas at Austin
Piper Enge
Southern Methodist University
Hazan Morrison

LOUISIANA

Tulane University
Zach Geisner

FLORIDA

University of Florida
Ashlynn Derato
Marla Lee

GEORGIA

Georgia Institute of Technology
Davin Aoyama

NORTH CAROLINA

University of South Carolina
Jenna Martin
Ellie Sadlier

SOUTH CAROLINA

Wake Forest University
Grayson Conder

ALABAMA

The University of Alabama
Colin Carmichael

HAWAII 1

University of Hawaii at Manoa
Julian Peters

ALT. ROUTES 10

Army
Ellington Fruehling
Marines
Dylan Way
Gap Year
Dan Mezistrano
Jackson Agee
Matt Lee
Owen Prater
Kat van Eeden
Rocco Tupas
The Hotchkiss School
Nick Mautone

COLORADO

Colorado College
Alexandra Hyman
Alex Lemus
Sam Dilworth
Colorado School of Mines
John Brown
JP Headrick
University of Denver
Jada Luu
Linnea Garner
University of Colorado, Boulder
Aidan Linden
Aris Lee
Achih Chen
Elise McEachran
Graham Givan
Harry Weil
Maya Lawrence
Morgan Weiss
Lucas Moraca
Val Piteira
Alex Findlay

TENNESSEE

University of Tennessee
Alexander Durkee
Annabel Little

CONNECTICUT 5

Connecticut College
Henry Dumler
Trinity College
Erica Kierstead
Wesleyan University
Annabelle Hegarty
Yale University
Kate Yang

WASHINGTON, D.C. 2

Georgetown University
Nikesh Woerner
George Washington University
Noah Burnside

CANADA

McGill University
Nate Pellerin
Simon Fraser University
Logan Remington
University of British Columbia
Keating Brick

FRANCE

Skema Business School
Ambre Lathieyre
Italy
Bocconi University
Matthew Walzer

ENGLAND

Imperial College London
Caleb Su
Scotland
University of Edinburgh
Alex Schumy

IRELAND

University College Dublin
Finn Hensley
University of Galway
Marta Malaguzzi

12 International

Building, Maintaining, & Preserving Community Assets

Mary Wayte Pool A Vital Community Space for Mercer Island

The Mary Wayte Pool is more than just a place to swim—it's a symbol of community pride and partnership on Mercer Island. From the athletes who train there to the families who gather for lessons, recreation, and fitness, the pool touches the lives of all ages. Backed by a \$2 million investment by Mercer Island School District through the community approved Capital and Technology Levy and a \$2 million King County grant, Mary Wayte will receive its largest single investment since it opened in 1972. This capital renovation project will ensure Mary Wayte Pool can serve the community for another decade.

A Legacy of Excellence

Nestled just steps from Mercer Island High School (MIHS), the Mary Wayte Pool has been instrumental in shaping the success of MIHS's swim and dive teams this fall. The girls' team clinched their third consecutive 3A State Championship, while the boys' team dominated the state scene with three consecutive titles, interrupted one year due to Covid, from 2020 to 2023. These achievements highlight the critical role the pool plays in fostering athletic talent and school spirit.

Rich History and Community Connection

Built in 1972 as part of King County's Forward Thrust Bond initiative, the pool has evolved alongside the Mercer Island community. It was renamed in the early 1990s to honor MIHS alumna Mary Wayte, whose dazzling Olympic

career—including two gold medals in Los Angeles (1984) and two additional medals in Seoul (1988)—brought national recognition to the island. Mary's legacy continues to inspire local youth and cement the pool's place in our island's story.

Looking Ahead

In partnership with Olympic Cascade Aquatics (OCA) and the City of Mercer Island, Mercer Island School District is committed to operating this space where memories are made, champions trained, and community ties strengthened. As we look forward to the pool's future, we invite everyone to celebrate its past, support its present, and share in the excitement of the incredible enhancements yet to come.



Your Cap/Tech Levy At Work An Investment: Today, Tomorrow, and Together

The Mercer Island School District is committed to the asset preservation of all our schools and district facilities with the goal of improving student experience and system reliability. During the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years MISD made and will make capital improvements through the Capital/Technology Levy (Cap/Tech) at our three older elementary schools and other district facilities.

Through our community's support of Cap/Tech Levy (2023-2029), the District completed and has project plans for the future. Cap/Tech dollars accomplish small projects such as boiler replacements, roofs, and secure vestibules.

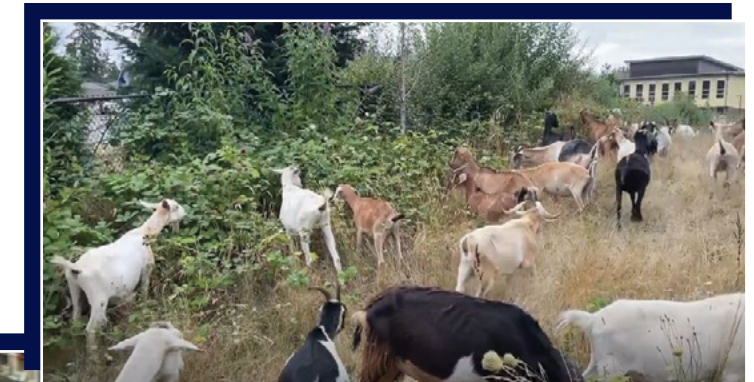
The Cap/Tech Levy Projects Completed During 2024 include:

- Carpet Replacement at Island Park, Lakeridge, and West Mercer
- Boiler Replacements at Island Park, Lakeridge, and West Mercer
- Classroom door security and hardware improvements at Island Park, Lakeridge, and West Mercer.
- Parking lot striping and select asphalt improvements throughout the District
- State of WA Clean Buildings Act Compliance Auditing & Reporting
- Partial HVAC Control Improvements at needed sites
- Secure Entry (video doorbell) at Crest Learning Center
- New teacher desks at Island Park, Lakeridge, and West Mercer
- Department of Ecology stormwater facility maintenance, (which includes the goats at IMS)
- Fencing improvements throughout the District
- Marching Band temporary Stair Tower at JV Field

Summer 2025 Planned Projects:

- Interior and exterior paint - Island Park, Lakeridge, and West Mercer.
- Phase one classroom furniture replacement at MIHS- Significant input from students, teachers, and staff, will establish a standard to support learning.
- Mary Wayte Pool - A \$2M grant from King County as a 1:1 match with the MISD Cap/Tech levy will provide necessary improvements for another decade to come. Construction is set to begin in 2025.
- Stormwater treatment - In conjunction with the Department of Ecology, MISD will invest in the maintenance of the current stormwater detention ponds around the district, including the summer goat pasture at IMS!

We greatly appreciate our community for providing for our students, staff, and facilities through your support of the Cap/Tech Levy.



Nondiscrimination Notification

The Mercer Island 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, marital status, 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.

Contact these people regarding inquiries about nondiscrimination policies

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Executive Director
206-230-6227 erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Title IX Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Executive Director
206-230-6227 erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Section 504 & ADA Coordinator:

Melissa Robertson, Special Services Director
206-236-3326 melissa.robertson@mercerislandschools.org

Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Executive Director
206-230-6227 erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org

Building, Maintaining, & Preserving Community Assets

April 2025 Bond Proposal

The Mercer Island School District (MISD) is inviting the community to consider a bond measure in April 2025. This proposal focuses on completing critical projects to enhance educational environments, address infrastructure needs, increase safety, and ensure accessibility across the district.

Key Projects for Consideration

1. Completing Islander Middle School (IMS)

The proposed bond would finalize campus improvements that began in 2014, creating a cohesive, modern learning environment. The core goals of the project are to replace aging structures not touched in the 2014 bond, reunite the campus under one roof as opposed to the three separate buildings today, and improve teaching and learning conditions for all students.



Addressing Accessibility and Environmental Sustainability at the Administration Building

Adding an elevator to the Administration Building would allow community and staff members access to the first and second floors. At the same time, reconfiguring the adjacent parking lot between CREST and the Administration Building would not only improve safety for students coming and going between the main campus and CREST, but it would create an opportunity to add an additional water retention and natural filtration pond to capture water runoff on the campus.



2. Improving Mercer Island High School (MIHS) and Crest Learning Center

The MIHS bond projects would fund essential repairs and upgrades, last undertaken as part of the mid 1990s bond. These updates include replacing aging mechanical equipment, fire alarm systems, and improving HVAC infrastructures to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for students and staff. To improve the educational environment, the plan includes modernization of the mass media video production studio, KMIH radio station, robotics and engineering labs, and core academic classrooms last remodeled in 1995.

At the Crest Learning Center (CREST), parking improvements would enhance ADA accessibility, addressing long-standing needs as well as redesigning spaces to include a healthroom and essential work centers.

Planning with Community Input

This proposal reflects extensive planning and community collaboration. Following the approval of the community-driven 2023-24 Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP) in January 2024, concept design work began. Leadership teams and site-based committees—including students, staff, and community members—have been actively involved in shaping solutions and priorities for the IMS and MIHS projects.

Why School Bonds Are Necessary

State funding for school construction is minimal, leaving school districts reliant on local, voter-approved bonds for significant capital projects. These bonds are a vital tool to:

- Preserve the community's investment in school facilities;
- Maintain safe, sustainable operations; and
- Enhance the educational experience for all students.

Bonds vs. Capital Levies: What's the Difference?

It's important to understand the distinction between bonds and levies in school funding:

- **Bonds** fund long-term capital projects, like constructing or modernizing school facilities. They are repaid over time, typically 10-25 years, using property tax collections. Bonds require a 60% supermajority to pass.
- **Capital Levies** fund short-term operational needs, supporting facility improvements and technology needs not fully funded by the state, and are renewed every 6 years by voters. The current levy expires in 2028.

Learn More

For detailed information about the April 2025 bond, visit www.mercerislandschools.org/bond.

This bond represents an opportunity for the community to shape the future of its schools, ensuring that MISD facilities remain safe, accessible, and conducive to high-quality education.

MIHS & Crest Updates



1 Update HVAC and Fire Alarm Systems

2 Update 200 & 300 Wing Learning Communities & Courtyard

3 Update Entry & Health Room at Crest

4 Renovate Stadium Bathrooms

5 Renovate Changing, Student Storage, & Training Areas

6 Update Assembly Areas to Showcase Student Work

7 Update Commons

Student Voice Shines in MISD

By Jordan Balousek, MIHS Senior

With the growing influence of artificial intelligence, it's not uncommon to hear people mutter that journalism will soon be a lost art. However, in MISD, that statement is far from the truth. Whether a student is in the IMS News Club or the Media Tech class at MIHS, the common denominator is students who are passionate about sharing their voice within our community.



Broadcast media students of KMIH 88.9 The Bridge which was named Best High School Radio Station in the country in November 2024.

At MIHS, there are quite a few student publications, covering a range of mediums. The MIHS Islander is the student-run newspaper, running both a website (mihsislander.org), and producing 6-plus print issues per year, distributed to both subscribers and the student body. The Isla puts out a 300+ page yearbook to students at the end of the year. Pegasus, the school's creative arts magazine, releases a full-color magazine at the end of the year, featuring physical and written student art, in addition to running a website (mihspegasus.org). MIHS.tv covers school news and produces various segments in a broadcast format, and won "Best Newscast" in a nationwide contest this past March. Finally, the radio class runs KMIH 88.9 The Bridge, which recently won the honor of "Best High School Radio Station" in a nationwide competition at the John Drury Awards.



MIHS.tv covers school news and produces various segments in a broadcast format, and won "Best Newscast" in a nationwide contest this past March. Finally, the radio class runs KMIH 88.9 The Bridge, which recently won the honor of "Best High School Radio Station" in a nationwide competition at the John Drury Awards.

KMIH 88.9 The Bridge broadcast media students broadcasting live from the studio at MIHS.

Radio teacher Joe Bryant said that the impact his class has on students is what he finds most inspiring about teaching the class. **"Some former students are making a real name for themselves in the broadcast industry,"** Bryant said. **"It always makes me super proud to know that the little light bulb went off right here in this room, that pointed these students to what they wanted to do with their future."**

At IMS, students are able to participate in the IMS News club, which meets after school and runs their own website (imstimes.net). Taking Yearbook is another option for students interested in learning about media publications; the class produces one 116-page edition per year.

"I really like designing, and I thought that yearbook would be a really good class to take because I would be able to express something [in a way] that everyone could see," seventh grade yearbook student Margaret Shea said. She said she is excited to take photos of her fellow classmates throughout the year.

Sixth grader Kayden Pham said he joined IMS News club out of his excitement to learn how to edit family Christmas photos, and says he really enjoys filming vlogs for the club. He also said he's **"looking forward to writing the newspapers and the podcasts."**



The elementary schools also have their own unique ways of broadcasting student voice. At Island Park, students have opportunities to participate in morning meetings with their classes, help create class rules and display their work on bulletin boards. They are also able to participate in student council and help plan assemblies.

Lakeridge is hosting four assemblies on belonging this year that are written and delivered by students, as well as "Culture 5!" assemblies, where students are able to teach their peers about an upcoming cultural event that they have a connection to. Additionally, fifth-grade students are able to participate in student council, whose responsibilities include running the daily announcements and periodically publishing a newsletter.

At Northwood, fourth and fifth grade students are also able to participate in the student council, who plan spirit days and support the school's clubs, and provide input on various matters. Additionally, Northwood plans to form a Principal Advisory Team that will meet regularly, and introduce a student suggestion box to gather students' ideas, comments and questions about the school for the leadership team to review.

West Mercer recently hosted its Veterans Day assembly, where students were able to perform various skits and music. Students were also able to participate in the Culture Fair, which featured dances and homemade food from various students' families. Similarly to the other three elementary schools, students are also able to serve on the student council.

Overall, the district's robust media programs and focus on highlighting students' perspectives have given students the opportunity to find their voices, making an impact beyond just the classroom.

"Whatever you're passionate about outside of school, you can always bring it into radio," junior Aaliyah Khan said, who works on the Sports Team for KMIH. **"There's just so much freedom to do whatever you want, and talk about what you're truly passionate about."**

"I discovered what I want to do with my life," senior radio student Maggie Blohm said.



MIHS.tv broadcast media students who were nominated for Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) awards this year in the TV production studio at MIHS.



MERCER ISLAND
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400
2024 Annual Report

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Demonstrated Excellence in Academics

As we reflect on the academic progress of our students, it is evident that our school system continues to provide a supportive and enriching environment for growth. In English Language Arts (ELA), 3rd graders show consistent performance, with a slight increase from 84.5% of students at or above grade level in the 2022-23 school year to 84.6% in 2023-24. The 4th grade has experienced a significant improvement, rising from 83.4% at or above grade level in 2021-22 to an impressive 89.8% in 2023-24, showcasing the effectiveness of our instructional strategies. Similarly, the 5th grade has increased from 84.0% in the previous year (22-23) to 88.6% in 2023-24, indicating a positive trend in student engagement and comprehension. With the implementation of our newest ELA curriculum, Benchmark Advance, we are beginning to see the growth in our students. The investment that our Schools Foundation has supported in professional learning around literacy instruction continues to yield positive results that we anticipate will continue to grow.

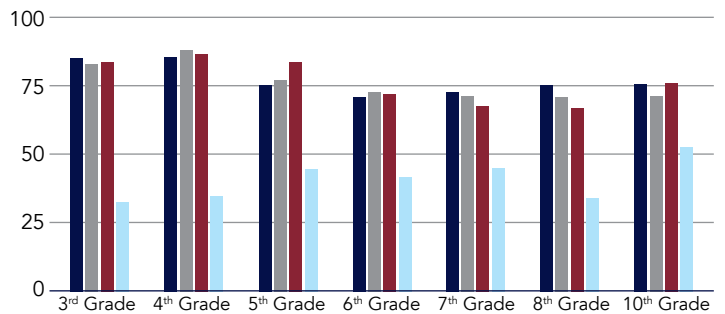
The 6th grade demonstrates steady growth, moving from 69.1% in 2021-22 to 74.9% in 2023-24, reflecting ongoing development in our curriculum. Our 10th graders continue to excel, with scores rising from 82.5% in 2022-23 to 82.9% in 2023-24. The focus in the 24-25 school year at our middle school is instruction in the area of comprehension associated with informational text, across all content areas. Our early data in the winter of 2025 demonstrates growth that we hope to see mirrored on our Smarter Balanced Assessments.

In Mathematics, the 3rd grade demonstrates growth from 83.2% in 2022-23 to 83.8% in 2023-24, reflecting a strong foundation in early math skills. The 4th grade shows improvement as well, moving from 85.7% in 2022-21 to 86.3% in 2023-24. The 5th grade has made a notable increase from 76.9% in the previous year (2022-23) to 83.5% in 2023-24, which signifies effective teaching methods. Similarly in K-2 math, our new curriculum, iReady Classroom Mathematics, is showing growth in our youngest learners.

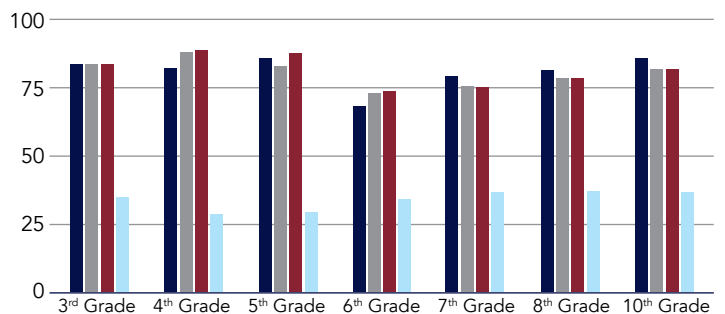
The 6th grade experienced a slight uptick from 70.8% in 2021-22 to 72.5% in 2023-24, demonstrating progress in student understanding of math concepts. Our 10th graders showed positive growth, moving from 71.3% in 2022-23 to 75.9% in 2023-24, reflecting resilience and growth among our high school students.

The upward trends in several grades illustrate that our school system is an excellent environment for student growth and achievement. Mercer Island continues to demonstrate excellence in academics, as compared to regional districts. All but one grade level in elementary math are the highest of our comparative schools. Our middle school scores are in the top three regional school scores, similar to the high school scores, with high school math scoring the highest of our comparative schools.

Three-Year SBA Math Data: Percent At or Above



Three-Year SBA ELA Data: Percent At or Above



■ '21-'22 ■ '22-'23 ■ '23-'24 ■ State '23-'24