A newsletter for the SNOHOMISH SCHOOL DISTRICT *community* / *www.sno.wednet.edu*

SCHOOL VIEWS

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Message from the **Superintendent**



Dear families and friends ~

A few months into the launch of another positive school year, I continue to be inspired by the incredible work happening in our schools. From the moment students step into their classrooms to the connections they make in the community, our district is alive with energy, curiosity, and dedication. Our students are deeply engaged in learning, and our staff leads them with passion and commitment. These conditions in our schools reflects the effort of all those involved - teachers, support staff, families, and community partners.

This past summer, our Career and Technical Education (CTE) Summer Internship Program gave high school students real-world experiences that prepared them for life after graduation. Students explored careers in media, fitness, real estate, event planning, healthcare, and more, guided by both district staff and local businesses. These internships are more than a summer opportunity - they are steppingstones to meaningful careers, partnerships with the Snohomish Education Foundation, Snohomish Chamber of Commerce, and local business and nonprofits help ensure these experiences are rich, relevant, and accessible to students.

Behind the scenes, our district teams worked diligently over the summer to prepare schools for success. Read more about how our custodial, facilities, maintenance, and technology crews completed projects large and small - from deep cleaning classrooms and updating devices to replacing HVAC units, installing security systems, and repairing roofs. These efforts ensure that students and staff return each year to safe, clean, and well-maintained learning environments, equipped with the tools they need to thrive. Voter-approved levy funding makes this possible, allowing us to maintain facilities, technology, and safety systems that support daily learning.



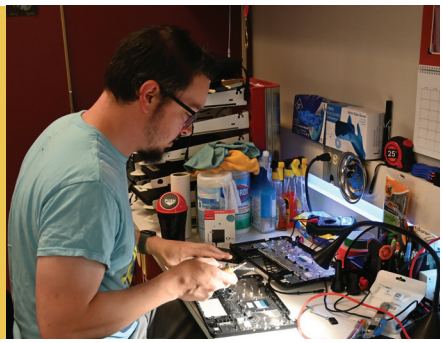
Important summer capital projects - such as siding and roof replacements and exterior painting - were funded by the district's Replacement Levy for Technology, Safety, and Facility Improvements.

Finally, we recognize that student success extends beyond the walls of the classroom. That's why we're excited to launch Connected Conversations, a new community series focused on family engagement and youth well-being. Author and speaker Katherine Martinko will share practical strategies for managing screen time, fostering focus, and creating balanced digital habits. Events like this help our families and community stay connected, informed, and empowered to support students' growth.

Our achievements are only possible because of you - our families, staff, and community. Thank you for your continued support as we nurture a learning environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive. Together, we are building a brighter future for our students and our community.

Warm regards,
Dr. Kent Kultgen
Superintendent

Behind the scenes:
Summer work prepares schools for success



When students returned this fall, they entered classrooms and facilities ready to support learning - thanks to the dedicated work of the district's custodial, facilities, maintenance, and technology teams.

Over the summer, crews tackled everything from deep-cleaning classrooms and waxing floors to painting, landscaping, power-washing, making key repairs, testing safety systems, and replacing HVAC filters.



Meanwhile, the technology team updated laptops and classroom devices to ensure students and staff had the tools needed for a successful school year. "Our technology team works behind the scenes during the summer to make sure every classroom is ready for students on day one," said Edson Rodriguez, district Technology Services director. "From updating devices to ensuring systems run smoothly, our goal is to give teachers and students the tools they need to focus on learning."

In addition to routine maintenance, several major capital projects were tackled late spring and summer including:

- Cathcart Elementary – Installation of a double portable classroom
- Central Campus – Roof, downspout, and gutter replacement; spot siding repairs; exterior painting; and relocation of the Parent Partnership Program
- Central Emerson Elementary – Replacement of domestic water booster pump
- Dutch Hill Elementary – Replacement of rooftop air handling unit; spot siding replacement; and exterior painting
- Little Cedars Elementary – Installation of new security camera system
- Resource and Service Center – Replacement of 30+-year-old carpet
- Seattle Hill Elementary – Siding replacement and exterior painting
- Valley View Middle School - Softball infield turf replacement
- Veterans Memorial Stadium - Sound system upgrade

"Voter-approved funding from the district's Replacement Levy for Technology, Safety, and Facility Improvements provides the resources our schools need to operate safely and effectively," said Superintendent Kent Kultgen. "It ensures our teams can maintain facilities and technology so students and staff can focus on learning and growth every day."

From classroom to community:

CTE summer internships inspire students



This summer, a group of Snohomish School District high school students gained real-world experience through our Career and Technical Education (CTE) Summer Internship Program – a program that continues to grow thanks to strong partnerships between our schools, local businesses, and community organizations.

Launched in 2024 and inspired by the success of neighboring districts, the program was made possible through collaboration with the Snohomish Chamber of Commerce, City of Snohomish, Snohomish STEM, Snohomish Education Foundation (SEF), and local businesses eager to mentor the next generation.

“Our internships are truly exploratory,” said Brian Burdon, district CTE director. “They allow students to test drive a career field before making big decisions about college or training. Sometimes students confirm their passion for a career and sometimes they discover a whole new direction they had not considered.”

This year’s placements spanned a wide range of industries. Students explored early childhood education at The Goddard School; media and marketing at North Sound Media; event planning and marketing with nonprofits such as SEF, Snohomish Community Food Bank, Snohomish Farmers Market, and Historic Downtown Snohomish Association; real estate and marketing at First & Main Real Estate Brokerage; and personal and group fitness training at Snohomish Strength and Conditioning. To participate, students applied and completed interviews with both Burdon and their host employers to ensure placements matched their skills and interests.



“Opportunities like this do not come often to students our age, and it is important to make the most of them,” said Snohomish High School senior Maria Huerta. “Every internship gives perspective on careers, on college, and on what you really want for your future.”

District staff like Patty Owen, CTE administrative assistant, also noticed the impact on students’ growth and confidence. “Hearing the interns on the radio was amazing, and it was wonderful to see the students walk away knowing they were capable of more than they thought,” she said.

SEF not only provided financial support, but also actively participated. Snohomish High School senior Mugdha Bhatnagar interned with the organization, contributing to nonprofit event management and experiencing firsthand the work of a school-focused community nonprofit.



“The internship with the SEF aligned with SEF’s mission of creating opportunities for students in our community,” said Erica Cenci, SEF executive director. “It was a joy to watch Mugdha integrate into our office and grow tremendously during her time with us.”

Parents echoed similar appreciation. Jennifer Smith, mother of Glacier Peak High School senior Liam Smith, noted her son’s internship at First & Main Real Estate Brokerage was educational and enjoyable. “We were so impressed by the time and care the team dedicated to supporting students” she said. “This experience truly enriched Liam’s education.”

Local businesses and nonprofits agree the program benefits everyone involved – many have already requested interns for next summer. They view it as an investment in students and in the community’s future workforce.

The CTE Summer Internship Program is just one of the many ways the Snohomish School District is helping students prepare for life after high school. The program will return in summer 2026, with applications opening in the spring.

“These internships are more than just a summer job,” Burdon said. “They are a stepping stone to amazing careers and a chance for students to see where they belong in their community and beyond.”

CTE pathways in action

In Snohomish School District classrooms, students aren’t just studying – they’re creating, problem-solving, and stepping into real-world roles. Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs open doors to careers in healthcare, business, advanced manufacturing, agriculture, and beyond.

“CTE is about more than coursework … it’s about helping students discover their strengths and chart a path toward meaningful careers,” said Brian Burdon, district CTE director.

Through five program areas and 18 specialized pathways, students connect STEM concepts with hands-on projects, industry certifications, and college credit. From designing marketing campaigns to treating sports injuries or drafting precision models, CTE offers practical experience that prepares them for the workforce, technical schools, or four-year universities.





Examples include:

- Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resources: Animal and plant sciences with FFA leadership opportunities.
- Health Sciences: Sports medicine and biotechnology with real-world partnerships like Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and through organizations such as HOSA.
- Business and Marketing: IT, entrepreneurship, DECA, FBLA, and yearbook leadership.
- Family and Consumer Sciences: Culinary arts, childcare, and interior design supported by SkillsUSA and FCCLA.
- Skilled and Technical Sciences: Manufacturing, CADD, visual communications, and JROTC.

Currently, more than 74% of district high school students earn college credit before graduation through CTE pathway coursework. CTE helps them gain certifications, sharpen skills, and explore exciting futures.

“We guide them to identify opportunities, build skills, and take clear steps toward success,” Burdon said. “It’s incredible to watch their confidence grow as they realize what they’re capable of achieving.”



Discover more about the district’s CTE program and pathways at www.sno.wednet.edu/cte

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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.

Connected Conversations: *Navigating the Digital Age*



The Snohomish School District, in partnership with the Snohomish Education Foundation, is excited to launch Connected Conversations, a new series of community meetings focused on family engagement and student well-being.

Join author and speaker Katherine Martinko for an engaging, research-based discussion on the impact of screen time on youth mental health, behavior, and learning. Martinko, author of *Childhood Unplugged: Practical Advice to Get Kids Off Screens and Find Balance* (2023) and collaborator on *The Anxious Generation* (Jonathan Haidt, 2024), will share practical strategies to help families create healthier, more focused learning environments.

Topics include:
- Setting tech boundaries
- Practicing digital minimalism
- Parent/guardian modeling
- Treating devices as tools rather than toys

Connected and Protected: Navigating the Digital Age
- From 6-7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 20
- Glacier Peak High School Auditorium (7401 144th Place SE in Snohomish)
- No RSVP required - everyone invited!