

NORTHWOOD



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2025-2026 NORTHWOOD PROFILE

Northwood Elementary is one of the four wonderful elementary schools in Mercer Island School District. Our educational program includes a focus on mindfulness and social emotional learning. Students are encouraged to be present, mindful and thoughtful about their choices and interactions with others. Each month, the school community comes together to learn and practice positive character traits such as Honesty, Empathy, or Perseverance. The Northwood community is supportive and collaborative - students take responsibility in lunchroom cleanliness, older students act as classroom buddies for younger students, and kids learn to be gracious with one another. We have a diverse student population on the island as well, which allows for much growth and learning to occur as each individual comes into contact with others from many backgrounds and abilities. Our Northwood community strives to be welcoming and inclusive of all and is committed to improving and growing for the better.

**In alignment within our district mission,
we are committed to inspiring our
students to be lifelong learners as they
create their futures.**



Powering Our Students For The Future



The 4 Bs: In the Mercer Island School District, we believe in creating a deep sense of BELONGING, BELIEF in the limitless potential of every student, removing BARRIERS, and BROADCASTING student voice.



Northwood is "phone free" from 9:15 AM - 3:45 PM daily

Administrative Team

Julie Newcomer - Principal

julie.newcomer@mercerislandschools.org

Julie Mattson (MIYFS) - Counselor

julie.mattson@mercerislandschools.org

Simone Carmel - Psychologist

simone.carmel@mercerislandschools.org

Ellen Marks - Administrative Assistant

ellen.marks@mercerislandschools.org

Bridget Haba - Secretary

bridget.haba@mercerislandschools.org

Academic Day

Regular Hours: 9:15 AM to 3:45 PM; Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.

9:15 AM to 2:05 PM Wednesday.

Parent Involvement

Strong partnerships between school and home are essential to student success. Parent voices, presence, and support help create the kind of school community where children flourish. Whether volunteering in the classroom, joining a school committee, attending events, or cheering from the sidelines—We value and encourage parent involvement in our learning community in whatever way your schedules permit.





NW Mission, Vision, & Values



Our Mission

At Northwood, we will foster learning by engaging students in thinking critically, solving problems creatively, and working collaboratively.

Our Vision

Inspiring our students to be lifelong learners as they create their futures.

Our Values

Students are the priority. We believe in:

- Supporting the whole child
- Creating inclusive and equitable learning settings
- Ensuring our school communities are safe and supportive
- Providing rigorous and challenging learning





NW Student Clubs



There are a number of opportunities for students to learn new skills, gain leadership experience and socialize with other Northwood students. These include exceptional after-school enrichment programs, each designed to spark creativity, cultivate skills, and foster a love for learning in your child.

Petals Art Club

This after-school program uses a creative crafting curriculum that is both fun and educational. Students will engage in hands-on projects that foster curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking.

Young Engineers

The mission of this after-school program is to teach children STEM concepts in a fun and entertaining way. Students use customized Lego bricks that come alive when

connected to motors. All the Lego equipment is provided, so students just need to bring their creativity and imagination.

Magikid

This after-school program specializes in robotics and STEAM education for children with a focus on hands-on learning, problem-solving, and teamwork.

Smart with Art

The earth inspires nature filled creations as students incorporate the outdoors into visual art in this after-school program.

Excel with Chess

Students make new friends while learning chess skills and practicing together each week in this after-school program.

Mathnasium

In this afterschool program, math make sense in a fun environment where each student is met where they are mathematically, whether behind or ahead.

Sponge

Language is a passport to the world. This after-school Mandarin and Spanish program is designed to build comprehension and communication skills through interactive, immersive learning.

Green Team

Green Team aims to engage our students in environmental awareness and sustainability practices. Green team participants can also help in lunch room clean up and make sure food waste is minimised.





2025-2026

NW School Improvement Plan

SMART+IER Goals

(Added inclusive, evaluate and re-evaluate)



1

SMART+IER
Goal #1

By the Spring iReady diagnostic, 100% of Northwood students will achieve at least 100% of their typical annual growth in mathematics.

2

SMART+IER
Goal #2

By May, 90% of Northwood students will respond favorably to the following EES prompts:

- All students have opportunities to choose more challenging work.
- In class we work with other students.
- Work I do in this school is useful and interesting to me.



2025-2026

NW School Improvement Plan

The Needed Knowledge, Skills, and Practices

What Knowledge and Skills Do These Groups Need?			
Students	Teachers	School Leaders	Families/Community
An understanding of:	An understanding of:	An understanding of:	An understanding of:
- How to take ownership of their learning by setting goals, tracking progress and reflecting on strategies. - The value of asking questions, sharing thinking, collaborating on problem solving and persevering through challenges. - Key math concepts and skills needed for their learning level and how these connect to real-world applications. - How to advocate for their learning by giving feedback and seeking challenges.	- How to use iReady data and formative assessment to drive and tailor instruction and target skill gaps. - How to differentiate learning and provide meaningful challenges for all students. - How to support students to set clear, attainable goals and celebrate progress and identify areas of growth with students. - How to intentionally build classroom culture around engagement, collaboration, curiosity, and relevance. Engagement strategies such as: - Cooperative learning and math discussions. - Incorporating math tools. - Using games, manipulatives, and real-world applications to make math relevant. - Balancing structure and student choice and voice in problem-solving activities.	- How to analyze schoolwide iReady data(diagnostic and discreet) to guide decisions and identify areas for support. - How to provide professional development that focuses on effective math instruction and engagement. - How to promote a culture of excitement and confidence in mathematics throughout the school. - How to ensure consistent implementation of engagement strategies across classrooms. - Ways to support teachers with resources, feedback, and collaboration time to sustain engagement and growth and provide meaningful challenges for all students.	- What iReady growth goals mean and how they reflect learning progress. - How to support engagement at home through positive math conversations, games, and real-life applications. - The importance of encouragement and growth mindset, valuing effort and improvement over perfection. - How to communicate regularly with teachers about student progress and learning needs.





2025-2026

NW School Improvement Plan

What Practices Need To Become Routine?			
Students	Teachers	School Leaders	Families/Community
The effective implementation of:	The effective implementation of:	The effective implementation of:	The effective implementation of:
- Set personal math and learning goals based on iReady data. - Regularly track progress toward typical growth and reflect on strategies that work. - Participate actively in math discussions, explaining thinking and learning from peers. - Take ownership of learning by asking questions and seeking challenges. - Engage collaboratively in group problem-solving tasks.	- Use iReady and formative assessment data to drive small-group instruction and differentiation. - Maintain high expectations for all students. - Offer more challenging work to all students. - Incorporate consistent engagement strategies—student choice, collaboration, and real-world application—into math lessons. - Facilitate student goal-setting and reflection routines. - Provide timely feedback and celebrate student progress. - Model a growth mindset and create classroom environments that value risk-taking and curiosity.	- Monitor and analyze schoolwide growth and engagement data monthly. - Schedule and protect collaborative time for teachers to analyze data and share effective practices. - Provide ongoing professional learning on differentiation, engagement, and inquiry-based instruction. - Reinforce a culture where curiosity, persistence, and engagement are celebrated alongside achievement. - Ensure systems for regular feedback between students, teachers, and leadership.	- Encourage math confidence at home through games, problem-solving, and everyday math conversations. - Reinforce the value of effort and learning from mistakes. - Support multiple ways of thinking and solving problems. Refrain from teaching the algorithm only. - Communicate consistently with teachers about student progress and engagement.

To accomplish this goal, teachers will engage in intentional and data-informed planning that uses iReady diagnostic and formative assessment data to guide differentiated small group math instruction. Instruction will incorporate engagement strategies such as student choice, collaboration, and real world problem solving to provide meaningful challenge and relevance for all learners.

Student progress toward 100 percent of their typical annual growth will be reviewed on a consistent cycle during Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings each month and Academic Pathways meetings every 6 to 8 weeks. Teams will use iReady data, classroom based assessments and diagnostic progress monitoring data. These reviews

will guide instructional adjustments and targeted support to ensure that all students are on track to meet or exceed their growth goals.

A watch list of students who did not make a year's worth of growth has been created and will be maintained to provide focused monitoring and intervention. Additionally, a new progress monitoring tool will be implemented to provide more frequent checkpoints on student learning, ensuring that instructional decisions remain responsive to student needs and aligned with the school's goal of achieving typical or greater growth for all students.



Northwood Elementary School's goals for school improvement align with the following District governing guidelines:

MISD VALUES

Students are the priority. We believe in supporting the whole child, creating inclusive and equitable learning settings, ensuring our school communities are safe and supportive, and providing rigorous and challenging learning.

MISD MISSION

The District will foster learning by engaging students in thinking critically, solving problems creatively, and working collaboratively.

MISD VISION

Inspiring our students to be lifelong learners as they create their futures.

MISD STUDENT FUNDAMENTALS

Fundamental 2 - Maintain the highest learning standards in the areas of fine arts; health and physical education; English language arts; mathematics; financial education, science; environment and sustainability; social studies, world languages; computer science and educational technology.

Fundamental 3 - Develop self-awareness, empathy, emotional/social intelligence, responsible decision-making and citizenship.

Fundamental 5 - Foster and embrace diversity, inclusiveness, and equity with a focus on respect and acceptance of every student.

WASA INCLUSIONARY PRACTICE VISION

In order to increase achievement for all students, eliminate inequities & barriers, promote safe and supportive learning environments, and provide challenging learning opportunities, Mercer Island School District will implement a multi-tiered system of support built on a foundation of Universal Design for Learning, that is inclusive of equity and access for all students, engagement with families and community, academic support, behavioral systems, and social-emotional learning.

