



EAGLE NEWS

Anderson Island Elementary

March 12, 2026

Good afternoon Eagle Families,

Another great week in the books here at AIE. Our Eagles continue to show what it means to stay Anchored in Excellence—putting in the effort, supporting one another, and showing up ready to learn each day. It's been fun to watch the consistency and growth across the board.

We also welcome the first day of Spring—a great reminder of growth, fresh starts, and the strong finish ahead. This is a perfect time to refocus, reset, and keep building momentum as we head into the final stretch of the year.

We've got a full week ahead with some great things built into our days. STEAM on Tuesday, Library on Wednesday, and Music on Thursday will give our students a chance to keep exploring, creating, and growing in different ways throughout the week.

This is one of those steady, “nothing flashy on the calendar” weeks—but those are often our best. These are the days where routines lock in, confidence builds, and real progress happens. We'll keep stacking good days and doing what we do best.

As always, take some time this weekend to rest, get outside, and keep those reading habits strong. We'll be ready to get back after it on Monday. Proud of these Eagles. Let's keep pushing forward.

See you all on Monday.

- Mr. Miller

March 27-School Closure make-up day (school in session)

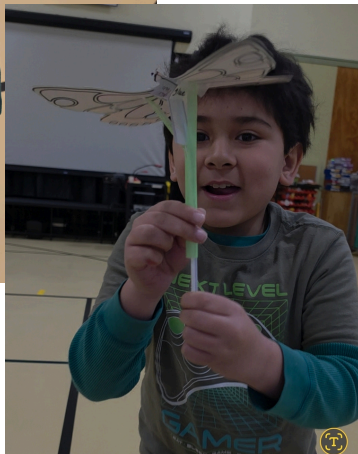
April 1-3 Conference Half Days

April 6-10 Spring Break

April 23 Point Defiance Zoo Field Trip (Extended Day)



Fluttering butterfly STEAM Project



Highly Capable Program

A note from the Highly Capable Program teacher, Mrs. Hannah Engstrom:
Every Spring there is a window of opportunity for 1st-4th grade students to apply for the district's Highly Capable Program. Any family is welcome to apply. Students who qualify may have advanced academic skills, display an abundance of creativity, or are amazing thinkers. Application forms are found on the district's website on this page: [Highly Capable Program](#) or you may request a paper copy from your child's classroom teacher. Applications are due April 17, 2026. Evaluation and testing will be completed in late April and early May. If you have any questions about the program, feel free to contact me via Parent Square or email at hengstrom@steilacoom.k12.wa.us.



Highly Capable Program 1st-4th grade Referral window

March 16-April 17, 2026

Are you interested in making a referral?

The Steilacoom School District provides services to students who are identified as Highly Capable through an assessment process. Students may be referred by parents and teachers Spring referral window. *Keep in mind that students can be referred and tested only once every two years.* Referral forms can be found here: [Highly Capable Program referral forms](#). You may also email **Hannah Engstrom** directly at hengstrom@steilacoom.k12.wa.us to request forms.

Is my child a bright child or a gifted learner?

"Identification of gifted students is clouded when concerned adults misinterpret high achievement as giftedness. High-achieving students are noticed for their on-time, neat, well-developed, and correct learning products. Some adults assume these students are gifted because their school-appropriate behaviors and products surface above the typical responses of grade-level students.

In situations in which they are respected and encouraged, gifted students' thinking is more complex with abstract inferences and more diverse perceptions than is typical of high achievers." ~Bertie Kingore

The following comparisons hopefully will assist parents and teachers in identifying students as highly capable.

~Adapted by Kingore from Szabos

A bright child...

Knows the answers
Is interested
Is attentive
Has good ideas
Works hard to achieve
Performs at the top of the group
Learns with ease
Enjoys peers
Is accurate
Enjoys school
Absorbs information
Is pleased with own learning
Gets A's
Popular with peers
Is socially mature
Understands complex/abstract humor

A gifted child...

Asks the questions
Is curious
Is selectively mentally engaged
Has wild, silly, creative ideas
Plays around yet tests well
Is beyond the group
Already knows
Prefers adults or older children
Is original
Enjoys learning
Manipulates information
Is highly self-critical
May not be motivated by grades
May not fit in with peers
May be emotional and immature
Creates complex, abstract humor

Please Note

- ◆ Referral forms can be found on the district website or here: [Referral forms](#).
- ◆ Please complete ALL 3 forms: Cover Sheet (with parent signature), Parent Referral, and Teacher Referral
- ◆ Return paper or electronic forms to Hannah Engstrom at either Cherrydale or Chloe Clark
- ◆ All forms are due by Friday, April 17, 2026.
- ◆ Evaluation and testing will be done in late April.
- ◆ Families will be informed of scores and status in May.