SCOOP 320

Community & School Insider
FALL '26



INSIDE

Meet our creative alumni and staff

Sumner-Bonney Lake Community Toybox

Building progress across the district

SPOTLIGHT
THE ARTS

FINDING SUCCESS THROUGH THE ARTS

A publication of Sumner-Bonney Lake School District #320



SUPER

Building community through the arts

The arts are an important part of a well-rounded education, and add so much to our entire community. Whether students are performing or creating, I'm proud that we're a district that understands their value and makes these opportunities a priority.

That commitment comes to life each year at Victor Falls Art Night, one of my favorite events to attend. Student artwork lines the hallways and fills the gym, while rooms throughout the school invite students to create origami and other crafts. The glow room is always a crowd favorite, filled with glow-in-the-dark student artwork. The evening also includes a wonderful performance by the Fennel Creek Falcon Modern Band.

It's one of many special events throughout the district that remind me how the arts inspire creativity, build confidence, and bring people together. I'm grateful to the art docents in our elementary schools and the art teachers in our secondary schools who make these experiences possible. I'm also grateful to all of our music teachers who provide students with opportunities to learn about music and instruments—and to perform.

I hope you enjoy celebrating the accomplishments of our students, staff, and alumni in this issue of Scoop 320. When you have the opportunity, please attend an art show, concert, or performance. If you're like me, you'll leave feeling proud of our students and inspired by their creativity.

Dr. Laurie Dent | *Superintendent*



PHOTO: Superintendent Laurie Dent (second from right) with members of Victor Falls Elementary's art docent program, including Nicole Deeter, Bianca Moyer and Alina Peters. The volunteer-led program teaches art appreciation and hands-on art lessons in the classroom.

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CLASSES

Explore the Arts

Art can take many forms. In the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District, each of our elementary schools has a music specialist, while our middle and high schools offer a diverse selection of arts courses. Here's a sampling of those classes offered across grade levels, giving students opportunities to explore their interests, learn new skills and express themselves through performing, visual and digital arts.

PERFORMING

- Acting
- Band
- Choir
- Drama
- Guitar
- Integrated Performing Arts
- Music Theory
- Percussion
- Theater Production

VISUAL

- Art
- Ceramics
- Drawing & Painting
- Studio Art
- Visual Arts

DIGITAL

- Computer Animation
- Creative Design
- Digital Photography
- Film
- Video Production
- Yearbook



SCOOP 320

You're reading Sumner-Bonney Lake School District's *Scoop 320*, a bi-annual publication providing our community the latest about district happenings.

We're excited to highlight our amazing students, staff and schools. From snackable tidbits to more in-depth stories, *Scoop 320* provides student-focused and community-connected content to all households in our school district boundary.

What's in the name? We're giving you the inside **scoop** on Sumner-Bonney Lake School District **#320**.

MORE SCOOP

Get district scoop year-round on social media.

- @SumnerSchoolDistrict
- @SumnerBonneyLakeSD
- sumnersd.org/youtube
- sumnersd.org/linkedin

#320

COVER: Students Lilyanne H. (left) and SHS '26 graduate Rowan D. perform in Sumner High School's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory." Photo by '26 SHS graduate Cooper Thompson.

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TEACHING & CREATING



AMY **FULLER**

Choir Teacher | Bonney Lake HS

"I hope that students see that you don't have to 'major' in music to make music part of your life."

Amy is the lead singer and keyboardist for Slim Wizzy, a blues band that has been performing together since 2015. She hopes her performances inspire students to continue making music throughout their lives.



EMILY **BROWNING-CRAY**

Art Teacher | Sumner HS

"I am able to bring a professional lens of what it is like to work with a client as an artist."

Emily is a graphic designer who has spent about 10 years creating custom logos, branding and merchandise for businesses and individual clients. She enjoys teaching students how to work with clients and value their creativity.



MELISSA **DECKMAN-MCVICKER**

Art Teacher | Bonney Lake HS

"As a liaison with the city, I provide arts opportunities for students in our community."

Melissa has been a City of Bonney Lake arts commissioner since 2014, helping bring public art and creative opportunities to the community. Her students participate in community art projects such as the colorful ducks along state Route 410.



RYAN **PAYNE**

Music Teacher | Victor Falls Elementary

"Music is something people can enjoy for a lifetime, both in and beyond the classroom."

Ryan is a member of Should've Been an Email, a band made up entirely of SBLSD music teachers including Abraham Golding (Bonney Lake Elem.), Valerie Chittick (Maple Lawn Elem.) and Andrew Riecke (Donald Eismann Elem.).



Finding *creativity*, *confidence* and *community* in the arts

HARPER MARTIN was in second grade when her teacher at Tehaleh Heights Elementary encouraged her to join the school play.

"I was a little scared of trying new things," said Harper, now a 7th grader at Sumner Middle School. "I wasn't fully out of my shell, and so I was nervous, but also excited."

She landed the role of Gingy—a gingerbread man—in *Shrek the Musical*, and unlocked a new passion for theater. Over the years, she's performed in a variety of shows, from *The Little Mermaid* to *Alice in Wonderland*, both at school and through the Northwest Theatre Lab, a children's theater in Puyallup.

Harper landed the lead role for Annie for her school play last year.

"I love the dancing. I love the acting. I love the singing," she said. "I could be doing nothing on stage and I'd be the happiest person alive."

But becoming a part of theater at school was about more than finding a new interest and improving her skill – it was about finding a community.

"It can be really scary to get up there and perform, but it feels a lot better when you realize that you're doing it

with all of these supportive people," Harper said. "We all have to work together to make the show come to life."

When students feel like they belong at school, it also positively reflects in their academics. According to a 2025 report from the National Endowment for the Arts, arts participation among high schoolers positively correlated with social-emotional attributes during ninth grade, while arts course completion was linked with greater academic achievement, high school graduation, and post-graduation outcomes.

That impact can start with our earliest learners. As the educator who first encouraged Harper to join theater, Tehaleh Heights Elementary teacher Jaime Frederick sees the benefits firsthand.

"I think there is something magical about performing on a stage in front of a live audience and I absolutely love sharing that with students," she said. "I think it builds confidence and gives them courage to try new things. I think it also provides opportunities for students to shine in new ways. We all have different talents and I think providing opportunities for students to explore the arts at the elementary level creates a space where they can find their voice and dream big dreams."

Harper is looking forward to what comes next: high school. Through her community, she's met friends who are part of the theater program at Sumner High School.

"They talk about their theater community a lot, and I think it's like a really fun place. I'm excited for it," she said.

Harper still credits her second grade teacher for inspiring her to join theater. Sometimes, all it takes is someone who believes in you.

"She saw something in me that I had never seen before," she said. "She welcomed me into this new community."

Now she wants to be that person for other students interested in joining theater.

"I would tell other students to try it. Be brave, be confident, because no one is going to judge you here," Harper said. "Just be in the moment, be happy that you're in the show and be happy that you're doing it with your friends."

"She saw something in me that I had never seen before."





"There is something magical about performing on a stage."



ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT

QUEENCY ROBINSON **REGIER**

Bonney Lake HS, Class of 2019

"Choir gave me a stepping stone toward becoming the best version of myself."

- **Career:** Musician, Piano & Vocals
- **Inspiration:** BLHS choir teacher Amy Fuller.
- **Today:** Regier has performed at more than 20 weddings, including two for friends she met through choir.



KEEGAN **HALL**

Sumner HS, Class of 1999

"The arts give students another way to discover what they're good at and who they are."

- **Career:** Graphite Pencil Artist
- **Inspiration:** Art teacher Steve Anderson, who encouraged creativity and exploration.
- **Today:** Hall's artwork is owned by Barack Obama, Michael Jordan and Eddie Vedder, and his projects have raised more than $850,000 for charity.



SUMNER-BONNEY LAKE COMMUNITY TOYBOX

Help us fill the toybox

Help bring joy to children this holiday season:

- **Donate** new toys, gift cards, money, gift wrap, ribbon or tape
- **Purchase** wish list items through Amazon
- **Volunteer** your time

The Sumner-Bonney Lake Community Toybox is a partnership with East Pierce Fire & Rescue, Gordon Family YMCA, Sumner Police Department and Sumner-Bonney Lake School District.

SPOTLIGHT

ON THE ARTS

SETH **MARTIN**

Sumner HS, Class of 2002

"The arts are essential in school for the idea of finding one's self through a form of creative expression."

- **Career:** Filmmaker & Storyteller
- **Inspiration:** Teacher Randall Jones' film class.
- **Today:** After producing unscripted television for Discovery, National Geographic, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, MTV and Disney, Seth now films stories in the Pacific Northwest through Shot in the Dark.



MELISSA **SONDERGELD-HOOD**

Bonney Lake HS, Class of 2011

"Everyone has some gift or skill to contribute and this makes theater a unique place where anyone is welcome to join."

- **Career:** Theater & Music Educator, Director & Performer
- **Inspiration:** Teachers Don Neptune and Brenda Williams, who created safe and inclusive learning environments.
- **Today:** Sondergeld-Hood has worked on more than 100 productions as a director, music director and performer.



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Stay connected

Stay in the know about what's happening across the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District! Subscribe to our community e-newsletter for the latest district news right to your inbox.

- Upcoming **events** and important dates
- Inspiring **stories** about our students and staff
- School **construction** and improvement updates
- District **news** and announcements

SUMNER-BONNEY LAKE
SCHOOL DISTRICT #320
1202 WOOD AVE
SUMNER, WA 98390

COMPLETED: Donald Eismann Elementary turf field and parking

We're proud to have completed the first project from our 2024 bond: New turf, lighted multiuse fields, expanded parking and improved queuing at Donald Eismann Elementary. Thank you, voters!

SUMNER-BONNEY LAKE
BUILDS





GROUNDBREAKING

SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL

Phase 2 Groundbreaking — Aug. 25



New classrooms, Special Education and CTE spaces, childcare area, greenhouse and additional parking.

Completion anticipated Fall 2028.

BONNEY LAKE HIGH SCHOOL

Expansion Groundbreaking — Oct. 8



Includes 18 classrooms, welcome center, expanded CTE spaces, turf fields, improved parking/queuing and intersection.

Completion anticipated Fall 2028.