

# Your Schools

A publication for residents of Mukilteo School District

Fall 2022



## Plan addresses changing needs

**M**ukilteo School District has just completed a strategic plan because we recognized the need for a comprehensive plan to align our efforts to better support students. Their needs, especially in our region, have changed significantly in the past years and we are adapting to meet those needs. We now serve more students who are English learners, require specialized services, and are more diverse than in past years. Over 110 languages are spoken in homes of our students. Students' social emotional needs have changed over time as well. This strategic plan aims to improve and unify our efforts to address these changing needs districtwide.

Overcoming the challenges to our goals will take many years and will be an ongoing process. This plan will help us monitor the data and adjust course as a unified team to better meet student needs. Before this plan's action steps end in 2027, the district will already be working on the next phase of the Strategic Plan, possibly with renewed or refined goals, strategies and action steps. We look forward to sharing our progress with you along the way and partnering with you as we keep our eyes on student success.

Read the Strategic Plan on the district website:

[www.mukilteoschools.org/domain/2983](http://www.mukilteoschools.org/domain/2983)



# YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

**T**here is a lot to be thankful for this time of year. In addition to the positive impact of student-and staff-led efforts to support families in our community, improvements to schools, fields and playgrounds are helping the community too.

The 2020 Capital Bond was approved by voters just as the pandemic hit our county and the world. The district is grateful for the community support to complete several much-needed projects in our schools. The facilities staff and construction crews have been making incredible progress on the promised projects despite the pandemic and the related labor shortages, supply chain and

shipping delays. Construction costs have also increased more than imagined, so they have been resourceful and innovative in how they complete projects within budget.

**Here are a few of the big projects that have been completed because of the voter-approved 2020 Capital Bond:**

- Discovery Elementary School Addition
- Kamiak High School ventilation upgrades
- Fairmount Elementary School updates including flooring, roof, windows, and ventilation
- Installed emergency communication systems at all schools

- Replaced classroom door locks at schools so staff can lock them from the inside
- Heating and ventilation upgrades at several schools including Horizon and Endeavour elementary schools and Mariner High School
- Olympic View Middle School synthetic turf and rubberized track
- Roofing restorations and upgrades replacements at several schools including Olivia Park and Serene Lake elementary schools, Voyager and Harbour Pointe middle schools and Kamiak High School (East Campus)
- Partial flooring replacements at Kamiak High School (East Campus) and Harbour Pointe Middle School

**We have several large bond projects currently in the works:**

- Challenger Elementary Renovation and Addition
- Horizon Elementary Renovation and Addition
- Mariner High School Addition and Renovation
- Pre-design work started for Serene Lake Elementary, Mukilteo Elementary, and Explorer Middle School additions
- Improving perimeter gates at Challenger, Columbia, Discovery, Horizon and Olivia Park elementary schools and Voyager Middle School

- Heating and ventilation upgrades at Olympic View and Harbour Pointe middle schools
- Kamiak High School Tennis Courts scheduled to be completed next summer
- Kamiak High School baseball field synthetic turf slated to be completed next summer

**And more projects to be completed soon!**

Despite the trials of the past few years, the 2020 Capital Bond projects will be complete by the end of the six-year bond cycle in 2026. A huge thank you goes to the hardworking and flexible team who has managed to continue these projects in the face of unanticipated challenges in addition to increased COVID-related work. Their accomplishments are impressive and help us fulfill our promise of safer, better facilities for students. That is certainly something to be thankful for!



*Horizon Elementary School's renovation is underway. The above is how the new school addition may look when it is complete. The construction includes a new playground, which is complete and already delighting students and neighborhood families.*



*The new addition at Discovery Elementary is complete and already being used by students*



*Construction work at Challenger Elementary is underway*





## Mukilteo School District

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# Assessments show growth

**J**acob is a fourth-grade student and loves his new teacher. He is doing well in class, but is missing a few foundational concepts in math. He is struggling to understand fractions, a concept introduced in second grade when he was learning from home.

Sierra, another fourth-grade student in the class, needs help with division. In fact, nearly all students need learning gaps filled because they did not fully understand or retain one or more concepts taught during distance learning. Those concepts are critical to understand before moving forward with fourth-grade content. Some students may have just moved to our country and are learning to speak English which adds to the complexity of discovering what skills they have and haven't yet mastered. How does a teacher discover the learning gaps and provide the needed instruction for each student while still moving the class forward?

Schools use several tools to assess students' progress in core subjects. The most frequent type is classroom

assessments teachers give students to check their understanding of the material. To bolster district assessment throughout the year, our district uses an assessment and instruction program called i-Ready. It is given multiple times a year to grades kindergarten through 8 in reading and math. Not only does it help identify learning gaps for students, it also suggests and delivers online instruction targeted to fill those specific learning needs. The i-Ready results have shown promising learning improvement during the past year.

Another assessment consists of state-provided tests such as the *Smarter Balanced Assessment*. Normally given annually each spring in grades three through eight and high school, it tests students' understanding in core subjects. The results are shared with school districts a few months later and summarized on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's website. In reviewing the results from last spring's assessment, it is clear students around the state still have a way to go to reach pre-pandemic achievement levels, but we are

making progress. District results mirrored the state's trends by showing modest improvement from the previous assessment.

It may take several years to overcome the learning interruptions caused by the pandemic. Student needs have changed. Students furthest from educational justice due to income, race, language, or abilities were hardest hit by the effects of the pandemic and that is where school districts see the largest gaps in assessment results. Each school district is unique, and we are adapting to meet our students' needs. Though we still have further to go to reach pre-pandemic assessment results, I am optimistic that positive progress will continue.



Dr. Alison Brynerson, Mukilteo School District Superintendent

*Why are you getting this newsletter? An estimated 70 percent of the residents within the school district do not have school-age children in Mukilteo schools. The purpose of **YourSchools**, therefore, is to let those members of the community know about the programs and activities taking place in their Mukilteo School District. This publication is not mailed using an address list. Instead, to greatly reduce the cost of postage, we use a bulk mailing process that has it delivered to every residential customer on each letter carrier's route.*

