Bril-liance (noun): brightness; great intelligence or talent; splendor



Educating the next generation of brilliance



Superintendent's Message



On behalf of the Mercer Island School District's Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the Mercer Island School District's Annual Report for 2011-2012. When I think back on the wonderful accomplishments of our students and

the outstanding work of teachers, I truly believe that we are "educating the next generation of brilliance." Our students will go on to create, invent and participate in the exciting

innovations of the 21st century. Honestly, I can't wait to see what they will do next!

I am proud of our students and teachers for their great work, and I am especially grateful to the Mercer Island community for demonstrating, once again, that education is something we all value. "Our students will go on to create, invent and participate in the exciting innovations of the 21st century."

When Governor Gregoire announced the state's \$5.3 billion shortfall for the next biennium, we began preparing for cuts up to \$1.1 million, on top of the \$3.1 million in spending cuts since 2007-08. But thanks to the efforts of the Mercer Island Schools Foundation and PTA *Bridge the Gap* Task Force, our community raised \$1.2 million for our schools!

As a result of this gift, we were able to retain all of our K-12 teachers and maintain low class sizes in the critical learning years of kindergarten through 4th grade. This is an amazing show of support, for the second year in a row. We can't say thank you enough.

However, we remain challenged by the district's ability to provide permanent learning spaces for its present and predicted student populations. Following the defeat of the 2012 bond, the board hired EMC Research, a Seattle company, to conduct a telephone survey of voters. Polling data revealed that a successful bond measure requires four key components: (1) Focus on immediate overcrowding issue; (2) Smaller bond amount than previous version; (3) Siting a new school on the north end of the Island; (4) Straight-forward investment plan easy to communicate. Following weeks of study, including the option to acquire private land, the board agreed to present three new options to the community for School Six on land the district owns: the North Mercer Campus. You can learn more about this important conversation here: www.engagemercerislandschools.org.

2011-2012 was another year of challenges, opportunities and hope for teachers, parents, community members and staff who continue to work diligently to provide the outstanding education we have come to expect from Mercer Island schools. Thank you for all you do and enjoy the great moments of brilliance that happen everyday in our schools.

Dr. Gary Plano, Superintendent



Inspiration for the Future

Mercer Island students participating in the 65th Annual DECA International Career Development Conference were inspired to build networks, work as a team, and demonstrate their professional development in a highly competitive and exciting atmosphere.



Mercer Island schools will deliver a 21st century education that prepares students to convert information into knowledge and create innovative solutions demanded by tomorrow's world.

We are educating entrepreneurs, risk-takers and critical thinkers.

Mercer Island School District is committed to balancing academic, creative and innovative thinking, fuelled by an entrepreneurial spirit. We are expanding student, parent and teacher thinking by having students share in the responsibility for their learning, with opportunities to learn about what sparks their imagination, ingenuity and drive.

We are teaching students to take ownership of their learning in an environment of high expectations where students are self-directed and intrinsically motivated. We are developing students who are entrepreneurs, risk-takers and critical thinkers who create meaning for themselves. Helping students understand that set-backs are stepping stones for future success is a lesson that learned early is also learned well.

Experiential learning and the use of personal technology tools, both in and out of the 'schoolroom environment' provide students with alternative learning environments, rich in context. Thin-walled classrooms, utilizing technology tools or mentors, encourage students to reach out to the teachers they need in addition to the teachers they're assigned. Students develop an emerging sense of themselves as global citizens.



2011-2012 School Board

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Adair Dingle, Position #4
Term of Office 2009-2013
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Dave Myerson, Position #2

Dave Myerson, Position #2
Term of Office 2009-2013
Dave Myerson@misd.wednet.edu

Notice of Nondiscrimination & Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB)

The district shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, religion, age, veteran or military status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability or non-program-related physical, sensory or mental disabilities. District programs and activities shall be free from sexual harassment and unlawful discrimination. In addition, the District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups.

The district is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, parents/legal guardians, volunteers, and patrons that is free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying.



A New Approach to Washington State History

Third grade students study First Nations while becoming more fluent in literacy using an iPad application known as "Toontastic." This kind of technology provides multiple ways for students to learn and teachers to teach. It can be the key to unlocking the mysteries of learning to read, write or compute for many students.

Mercer Island School District

Points of Pride

- Outperforming district: Council of Chief State School Officers and Standard & Poors has identified Mercer Island as an Outperforming District for performing at a level that significantly exceeds statistical expectations.
- Nationally recognized: Forbes Magazine rates MISD as among America's 25 best school districts for your housing dollar and among the top ten districts in small cities across the country.
- High graduate percentage: A Manhatten Institute study ranked Mercer Island High School #1 nationally for the percentage of students who graduate on time.
- Award-winning high school: Mercer Island High School
 was awarded a Silver Medal of Distinction in *U.S. News*and World Report magazine's Best High Schools 2009
 Search for the top-achieving high schools in the nation.
- **Best at college preparation:** *The Seattle Times School Guide* rated MIHS the #1 public high school in Washington for quality of preparation for students.

- Two Blue Ribbon Schools: Mercer Island High School (2006) and Islander Middle School (2003) have been designated Blue Ribbon Schools by the US Department of Education.
- District schools have received the Washington School Achievement award for high achievement on state assessments.
- Mercer Island High School received a Silver Medal from the U.S. News and World Report for STEM Education Center (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education) for excellence in math and science education.
- Wells Fargo Bank Scholastic Cup: For the past three
 years MIHS has received this prestigious award granted
 to athletic programs demonstrating superior state athletic
 competition, academic performance and sportsmanship.
- Golden Apple Award winner: MIHS received this statewide award of excellence sponsored by KCTS 9 and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in February 2012.



Out-of-the-Box Learning

While preparing for the FIRST Lego League Tournament, Mercer Island students discovered that there is a lot more to food production than they ever knew. They spent many afternoons and evenings designing robots to navigate an obstacle course about the many paths that food takes before it reaches our tables.

The Green Schools Program

Three years ago the Mercer Island School District joined the King County Green Schools Program to involve school communities in environmental stewardship. In 2011-12, the district became one of eleven districts in King County to earn King County Green Schools' certification by improving conservation practices and involving students in all aspects of conservation and outreach efforts. We are especially grateful for the support of the City of Mercer Island, Island Vision and MISD's Green Team for working with our teachers to help students develop global awareness, while learning to understand and solve a real-world problem.

King County Earth Hero at School Awards

Presented in April 2011

- Island Park Elementary
- Jamie Cooke, MIHS teacher
- Nancy Weil, parent volunteer and facilitator of the district Green Team

Completed Level One – Waste reduction and recycling	✓ MIHS	✓ IMS	✓ Island Park	✓ Lakeridge	✓ West Mercer
Completed Level Two – Energy conservation	✓ MIHS	✓ IMS	✓ Island Park	✓ Lakeridge	
Completed Level Three – Water conservation	✓ Island	Park			
Lunchroom Materials – Eliminate polystyrene (styrofoam) and silverware are now either dura	plates, cups,			✓ Lakeridge	✓ West Mercer
Lunchroom Composting – Food scraps and food-soiled paper		✓ IMS posted	✓ Island Park	✓ Lakeridge	✓ West Mercer
Paper Reduction – Parent newsletters are delivered ele	✓ MIHS	✓ IMS	✓ Island Park	✓ Lakeridge	✓ West Mercer

Special Education

In 2011-12, approximately 10.5% percent of the MISD K-12 student population qualified for one or more special education services. We are committed to all students on the continuum of learning and offer programs from pre-school to transition programs for students ages 18-21. Special education is a federal and state mandated program that districts are obligated to provide. Funding for this mandate, however, is insufficient, requiring school districts to support the shortfall out of their general operating budgets. Last year this shortfall was almost \$1,250,000.

No Child Left Behind – The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

The Mercer Island School District has met all requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act and has reported Adequate Yearly Progress under ESEA. To view the MISD report card and/or a School Report Card, go to http://reportcard.ospi.kl2.wa.us. Currently our annual reports include the state requirements listed in RCW 28A.655.110, as well as ESEA Report Card elements not available on the OSPI website.

Our District

The Mercer Island School District is comprised of five schools located on Mercer Island, a six square mile suburban community of 22,650 residents in the middle of Lake Washington, within a 10-minute drive to Seattle and Bellevue. The community has high expectations for the school district and has supported its maintenance and operations levy every year, as well as \$54 million in capital bonds to renovate all five schools.

Mercer Island students and teachers benefit from over \$3 million in annual donations to the PTA/PTSA's and the Mercer Island Schools Foundation, as well as the time and energy of countless volunteers serving on committees, planning fund-raising programs, coordinating field trips and assemblies, serving as art docents, general classroom volunteers, and many more activities.

District Statistics 2011-2012

Schools

- 3 Elementary Schools
- 1 Middle School
- 1 High School
- 1 Alternative Program Crest Learning Center

Enrollment

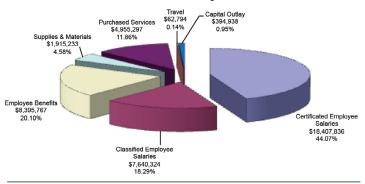
Total student enrollment	
(on October 1, 2012)	4,082
Island Park	502
Lakeridge	556
West Mercer	620
Islander Middle School	1,025
Mercer Island High School	
and Crest Learning Center	1,378
Running Start Students	38.40
-	

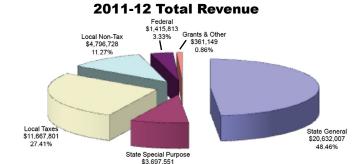
Employees

Certified Staff	267.92	FTE
Classified Staff	139.39	FTE

Ethnic Enrollment American Indian/Alaska Native)))
Special ProgramsFree or Reduced-Price meals3.8 %Special Education9.7 %Transitional Bilingual1.8 %)

2011-12 Total Expenditures





Total Expenditures: \$41,772,190 District Per Pupil Expenditure: \$10,233

Total Revenue: \$42,571,048

State Revenue per MISD pupil: \$5,960

Exploring the Writing Process

Islander Middle School students learn that the best stories often start with the fewest words in the online Slice of Life story challenge. "I have discovered through my own reading that you can hide yourself in the characters you create," said one student.



A Master Plan for the future, short-term solutions today

On September 26, 2011, the 21st Century Facilities Planning Committee presented their Recommendation for a Master Facilities Plan to the school board. The committee based their recommendation on a thorough analysis of each of the following areas:

- Growing enrollment facility capacity
- Best Practice schools
- School configuration
- Balancing short and long-term requirements
- · Cost and bonding
- Other Mega-Block issues

The full report and current facilities planning information can be found on the district web site:

www.mercerislandschools.org/facilities



Seeking short-term solutions to overcrowding in our schools

In April 2012 the school board authorized a \$196,275,000 bond proposition to modernize and expand district facilities. After the bond failed, the District has taken the following steps to understand the issues and better communicate the needs as more students continue to enroll:

- Conducted a community survey with EMC Research to better understand the community's school facility priorities and community perceptions of the school improvements encompassed by the defeated bond measure. A citizen's task force, appointed by the Board, assisted EMC with the development of the survey tool.
- Conducted listening sessions to provide community members with the opportunity to express their views regarding facility solutions in the failed 2012 bond.
- Invited citizen's comments via email.
- Learned from polling data that a successful bond measure will need to focus on the immediate overcrowding issue, be smaller than the previous version, site a new school on the north end of the island, and be straight-forward and easy to communicate.
- Contracted with Triangle Associates, a public engagement firm, to assist in **community outreach**.
- Hired Transpro to study transportation impacts.
- Worked with architectural firm Mahlum & Associates to develop three options for a new school on the North Mercer Campus.
- **Defined potential impacts** on other schools and other needs: Mary Wayte Pool and the high school stadium.
- Created a *Mind Mixer* website for citizens to learn more about options and to provide input.
- Scheduled Town Hall meetings and coffee sessions
 with the Board of Directors to gather more information
 from citizens about the proposed short-term solutions to
 the overcrowding in our schools.
- Communicated emerging facilities ideas to all stakeholders
- **Published the Fall 2012 District NEWS** detailing the three options, impacts and other needs.

Continuous Outstanding Achievement

On August 29, 2012 State Superintendent Randy Dorn announced the results of the **grades 3-8 Measurements of Student Progress (MSP)**, the **High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE)** and the **End-of-Course Performance (EOC)** for 2011-2012.

Mercer Island students continue to outscore the state average and their peers across the state. Of particular note is the strong performance of 10th graders on the new Biology EOC assessment with 88.4% of the students passing, compared to 64.3% at the state level. According to Jennifer Wright, Executive Director of Learning and Technology Services, "Overall we are pleased with the results of the tests. Scores are up in almost every area; once again our students and teachers rose to the challenge and performed well, as they have in the past."

2011-2012 MSP						
		Reading	Math	Writing	Science	
Grade	All District	91.6%	89.7%			
3	Island Park	89.2%	90.5%			
	Lakeridge	91.7%	87.5%			
	West Mercer	93.1%	90.8%			
	WA State	68.8%	65.3%			
Grade	All District	90.8%	88.0%	89.6%		
4	Island Park	92.2%	92.2%	91.3%		
	Lakeridge	86.8%	83.0%	84.0%		
	West Mercer	93.2%	88.9%	93.2%		
	WA State	71.5%	59.4%	61.4%		
Grade	All District	90.6%	90.0%		90.3%	
5	Island Park	88.0%	90.0%		91.0%	
	Lakeridge	90.0%	96.0%		91.0%	
	West Mercer	92.9%	85.7%		89.3%	
	WA State	71.1%	63.8%		66.3%	
Grade	MISD	88.2%	89.7%			
6	WA State	70.7%	61.5%			
Grade	MISD	91.4%	88.0%	94.6%		
7	WA State	71.3%	59.2%	71.0%		
Grade	MISD	88.4%	88.6%		93.2%	
8	WA State	67.3%	55.5%		66.4%	

2011-2012 HSPE/End-of-Course

		Reading	Writing
Grade	MISD	93.3%	93.9%
10	WA State	81.3%	85.4%
		EOC Math Year 1	EOC Math Year 2
All MIS	SD Grades*	94.0%	98.5%
State		71.1%	79.1%
		EOC Biology	
All MIS	SD Grades*	88.4%	
State		64.3%	

*End-of-Course (EOC) exams are given in any grade in which the course is offered.



Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and ACT Assessment

While the SAT and ACT are not required tests, many Mercer Island High School students take one or both of these for college applications.

			SAT	
# Tested	d Class	Mean Scor	es	
281	2010	Math-626	Critical Reading-593	Writing-582
298	2011	Math-628	Critical Reading-594	Writing-595
293	2012	Math-590	Critical Reading-622	Writing-586
			ACT	
# Teste	ed	Class	Mean Composite	
216		2010	26.5	
212		2011	27.2	
205		2012	26.7	

Other Assessments and Awards:

National Merit Scholars			
Class	Finalists	Commended Scholars	
2011	12	26	
2012	6	19	
2013	8 Semifinalists	32	

	P Test Results	AP	
AP Scores and above	# Tests Taken	# Students Tested	Year
465	571	319	2009
373	470	262	2010
389	507	298	2011
376	434	260	2012
	470 507	262 298	2010 2011

2012 AP Scholars

29 AP Scholars; 19 AP Scholars with Honor

2012 National Hispanic Recognition

Program Award Recipient: 1

2012 National Achievement Scholarship Program

Outstanding Participant: 1

Island Park Elementary

Built in 1957 • Remodeled in 1995 Six portables on campus

5437 Island Crest Way *Principal David Hoffman*

Island Park fifth grade students develop problem-solving skills and technology literacy through an innovative classroom management program.

Island Park Elementary teachers Stephanie-John Lewis and Angela McCann developed the Weekly Skills program around the *Daily 5 Café* program widely used in many district classrooms. Students are given a menu of choices and move from one learning area to another during the day.

Students like the program because, "It's a great way to organize our work. We come in every morning and get right to work because we know what to do. It's fun and never boring because there are so many different things to do. The best part is – it's up to us to decide whether we have homework or not!"

Stephanie John-Lewis has been teaching for 20 years and has never seen as much success with classroom management. "I used to stand up in the front of the class and lecture to deliver a lesson. Some kids could listen and get it, but most were fidgeting after 10 minutes. I am continually amazed to observe my students quietly engaged in learning for two hours at a time. This program has proven to be incredibly effective at allowing students to move through their learning at their own pace."



Lakeridge Elementary

Built in 1954 • Remodeled in 1995 Nine portables on campus

8215 SE 78th Principal Fred Rundle

Students apply critical and cross-discipline thinking while learning to build rockets.

Lakeridge Rocketry Club students learn to build rockets with plastic pop bottles, construction paper, cardboard, and glue, then launch them with varying success. "Last year our parachutes didn't work because we had too much glue in the nose corner," explained one student. "I wanted to come back and see if we could make it work this year. It's really cool to build things!"

"Fourth and fifth grade students are very curious about how things work," said teacher Alex Lin-Meyer. "We do a lot of reading and discussing in class, but building things like rockets makes the learning fun for them." The other reason for starting the club is that Mr. Lin-Meyer was an aeronautics engineer at Boeing before becoming a teacher. He spends a lot of his free time building things at home, including the rocket launching pad for his students. "I love this stuff," he said. "It's great to be able to use my engineering background to teach. The students come back every year because, as one explained, "Rocketry Club is fun! It's a lot of trial and error, just like real science."



West Mercer Elementary

Built in 1962 • Remodeled in 1995 Eight Portables on campus

4141 81st Avenue SE *Principal Richard Mellish*

Career Days encourage students to pursue academic passions and interests beyond the traditional classroom environment.

"Why do people need lawyers?" "What does it take to be a pilot?" "How do you make pizza?" "What's the connection between video-gaming and the operating room?"

These are just some of the questions that West Mercer third, fourth and fifth grade students explored with a team of parent volunteers in the eighth annual Career Days, a three-day event designed to expose students to the world of work. Over 45 parents came to share their professions – everything from a pizza maker, to a trial lawyer, a chemist, photographer, robotics engineer and a laparoscopic surgeon. One parent said, "I don't think my kids have any idea of what I really do all day. This is a great opportunity to share that with them and their fellow students."



Islander Middle School

Built in 1958 • Remodeled in 1994 and 2000 Seven portables on campus

8225 SE 72nd Street

Co-Principals Mary Jo Budzius and Aaron Miller

Eighth graders develop global awareness and an understanding of real world problems by experiencing the stories of Holocaust children.

Natus Weissblatt

January 27th is International Holocaust Memorial Day. On that day in a classroom filled with colorful paper butterflies suspended on strings from the ceiling,

Language Arts students remembered the children who survived, or perished, through The Butterfly Project created by the Holocaust Museum Houston. The project is based on the book, "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" - Children's Drawings and Poems from Terezin Concentration Camp 1942–1944. As each student opened their "butterfly" story, they read to the end carefully, hoping that their child had been one of the few who survived. Their teacher Nova Williams had assigned the stories without revealing the fate of the children. If a child of the Holocaust perished, his or her butterfly was cut down. The students were subdued and saddened by the empty strings and fallen butterflies scattered on the floor

"Surprisingly, my students have not heard a lot about the Holocaust," said Ms. Williams. "They want to understand more, and to connect with young people all over the world who are also struggling to comprehend the reality of what happened to the children."



Mercer Island High School

Built in 1957 • Remodeled in 1998

9100 SE 42nd Street Principal Vicki Puckett

A field trip opens a world of possibilities of real-world applications for traditional classroom learning.

Innovation. Creativity. Collaboration. Ethics. Brilliance.

These words line the walls of the offices of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), one of the largest accounting firms in the world. Some of the students in Kristine van der Hoeven's accounting class at Mercer Island High School found the words surprising.

"I always thought that accounting firms were places where people sit by themselves and crunch numbers all day," said Raoul. "But I learned from our tour that this is a stereotype."



During their visit to PwC, the students participated in a panel discussion on accounting careers, and toured the offices. Later that day, the students visited the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington and heard from current seniors who chose to major in accounting. One MIHS student said, "I have always been interested in the social sciences, but now I know that the combination of a business degree with psychology or sociology is much broader. This field trip really opened my eyes to the world beyond high school."

Crest Learning Center

Crest Learning Center is MIHS's alternative program. The staff of nine adults works to create a learning environment that meets the needs of a diverse population of about 115 students. The curriculum at Crest is designed to focus on the development of cognitive powers, creativity, and essential skills, matching the district's 2020 Vision.

MIHS College Placement

Ninety-three percent of the graduates of the Class of 2012 had plans to continue their education, 83% at a four-year institution and 10% at a two-year school. Some students have joined the military and others have found full-time employment. Of the collegebound students, 30% go out-of state. In the past three vears, an average of 34.9% of our students attended Washington state public colleges and universities including: University of Washington, Washington State University, Western Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Central Washington University, Evergreen State College, Bellevue College, Seattle Community College and more. Students from the class of 2012 are attending 121 different colleges and universities across the nation and the world. Of the 121 colleges, 76 are private institutions. Some of the schools are: Amherst. Barnard, Bates, Boston U, Bowdoin, Bryn Mawr, Brown, Carnegie Mellon, Cal Poly SLO, Chapman,



Claremont McKenna, Colby, Colgate, Colorado College, Columbia, Dartmouth, DePaul, Duke. Elon, George Washington U. Georgetown, Gonzaga, Gordon, Hamilton, Harvard, Hilsdale, Hofstra, Hope, Johns Hopkins, Kenyon, Linfield, Loyola Marymount, Manhattenville, Marymount, McGill, Middlebury, MIT, Mount Holyoke, Northeastern, Northwestern, Oberlin, Occidental, Pacific Lutheran, Parsons School of Design, Pitzer, Princeton, Reed, Rice, Rochester Inst of Technology, Santa Clara, Sarah Lawrence, Scripps, Seattle U, Seattle Pacific U, Smith, Stanford, St. Mary's, Sweet Briar, Trinity College of Dublin, Ireland, Tufts, UCLA, U Chicago, U Colorado, U Denver, U Michigan, U Minnesota, U Redlands, U Portland, USD, USC, USF, US Naval Academy, Union, Victoria U of New Zealand. Wake Forest, Washington U in St. Louis, Wheaton, Whitman, Willamette, Williams and Yale.



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Published by Mercer Island School District under the direction of Dr. Gary Plano, Superintendent



Successfully preparing students for the cognitive, global and digital world.

District Contact Information

Individual school web sites are accessible through the pull-down menu on the main site.

All addresses are Mercer Island, WA 98040

marcerislandschools org.

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Mercer Island High School & Crest Learning Center 9100 SE 42nd

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Associate Principal (206) 230-6226

Craig Olson Associate Principal (206) 236-3386

Jamie Prescott Associate Principal (206) 236-3387 **Islander Middle School** 8225 SE 72nd

MaryJo Budzius, Co-Principal (206) 230-6161

Aaron Miller, Co-Principal (206) 236-3407

Tara Stone

Interim Associate Principal (206) 230-6156

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David Hoffman, Principal (206) 236-3410

Lakeridge Elementary 8215 SE 78th

Fred Rundle, Principal (206) 236-3415

West Mercer Elementary 4141 81st Avenue SE

Richard Mellish, Principal (206) 236-3430

