

# MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

# 2020-2021

## ANNUAL REPORT



# AND THEY'RE BACK!



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www.mercerislandschools.org



# THE MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS



David D'Souza  
2019 - 2023



Maggie Tai Tucker  
2019 - 2023



Tam Dinh  
2019 - 2023



Deborah Lurie  
2022 - 2026



Dan Glowitz  
2022 - 2026



Superintendent  
Donna Colosky  
Secretary of the  
School Board

The Mercer Island School District Board of Directors members are elected to four-year terms. Their responsibilities include goal-setting; employing the superintendent; setting district policy; adopting an operating budget; placing levies and bonds before voters; approving the instructional program; and ratifying contracts.

## MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DONNA COLOSKY

*On behalf of the Mercer Island School District Board of Directors, our teachers, staff, and students, I am pleased to present the 2020-21 Annual Report to the Mercer Island community.*

One of our District's most important values is supporting the whole child. That value is something we have strongly focused on throughout the 2020-21 school year as we worked through the pandemic's impacts on our students, staff and families. I am so proud of our staff, and want to express my deep gratitude for daily work done with families in ongoing COVID mitigation strategies, including testing, contact tracing, and educational support during quarantine. Our intention is to always keep learning as the focus. We are proud that our transmission rates continue to be very low, and we have worked hard to minimize disruptions to student learning. Our staff's dedication to students has shone through since the start of the school year.

Our community's responsiveness to all the ongoing COVID mitigation strategies gives me hope that our schools will continue to be healthy and safe places for our students to learn. The drivers, nurses, food services team, teachers, custodians, counselors and the entire staff remain steadfast in their commitment to students and learning. Our leadership team continues to work with public health agencies as we broaden opportunities for students both inside and outside our classrooms.

I look forward to working with new Board Director Dan Glowitz as we engage our community with our core values, vision and mission.

I want to thank former Board Director Brian Giannini Upton for his commitment to the District. He always put students first, and the District has greatly benefitted from his service and passion.

We are always grateful for the support you give our students and staff.

Sincerely,  
*Donna Colosky*  
Donna Colosky  
Superintendent

## VALUES

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.

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

## VISION

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

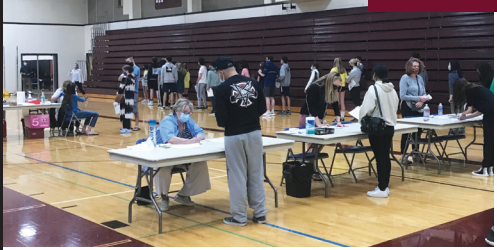
## MISSION

## STUDENTS

## ARE THE PRIORITY



## POINTS OF PRIDE



**In September 2020** Students the District identified as most in need of support and services began in-person learning appointments the second week of school in September. Gradually, students returned with greater frequency throughout the fall.

**In December 2020** Students in our Early Childhood Services (pre-school) began in-person learning in December. Some students continued virtually, based on parent and teacher collaboration, but most were able to return to the classroom to receive services and support.

**In January we were** able to begin serving students back in a hybrid learning environment. MISD's timeline led the way in King County when bringing students back in person. The creativity and dedication of our teachers to go above and beyond created the best educational setting for our students. Thank you to our wonderful teachers for making the hybrid model work so well.

**June 10 was a big day** as we had our 2021 High School Graduation outdoors at Islander Stadium. Not only was this one of the largest events we were able to host since the beginning of the pandemic, but it was the first time in recent memory for our graduates to commemorate their graduation right in their own stadium. It was wonderful to see all our seniors get a ceremony to cap off their high school years. With safety in mind, students and their families were able to participate in person and stream in from afar as well.

**We held our first vaccination clinic** at MIHS on May 15 for students 12 and older. Our PTA was involved in helping run the clinic, and we are grateful for their support. We were able to administer nearly 1,000 vaccines. The second dose was given at MIHS on June 6. The district would like to thank Costco as well, for their support for the clinic.

**It was a noteworthy year** for music in the District. The IMS Band Blast and MIHS Band Awards were held in Islander Stadium. Our MIHS Spring Concert was held in the high school performing arts center. Our MIHS Jazz Ensemble held rehearsals in the parking lot. Our musicians overcame a lot, including playing instruments with school-provided personal protective equipment (PPE) to make these performances happen.

**Elementary summer school** was provided to any student who enrolled, and was offered fully in person. More than double the number of students participated. MISD also offered an afternoon enrichment option to use activities to promote physical, social and emotional growth. The high school summer school was offered both in-person and via remote learning. Students accessed credit recovery courses, as well as courses students elected to take to complete a credit they would have otherwise taken during the typical school year.

**The MIHS spring musical**, The Theory of Relativity, was performed and recorded on Zoom. This was a nice shift back to a bit of "normal" for our drama students. Performers were allowed to rehearse in person (masked) and film in person. All solos were performed unmasked, with duets filmed separately so the duos could be unmasked. The two performances were streamed online to a very receptive audience.

**Technology support** was integral to supporting our online and hybrid learning models. Teachers utilized smart boards, iPads, monitors and voice amplification speakers to create lesson resources and engage with students from their homes and classrooms. Classified staff were provided with laptops to support teachers with Zoom classroom management. Students were provided with iPads, and households that needed additional internet access were provided with hotspots. All these technology resources proved to be vital in student learning over the last year.





## FUNDAMENTALS

These five student-focused Fundamentals (goals) are at the heart of the District's values, vision and mission, centered on students as the priority and educating the whole child. The Fundamentals make up Board Policy 0001 and are reviewed annually for progress by the School Board, using qualitative and quantitative indicators.

# 1

**Create a personalized learning environment where differentiated instruction, student-centered education, and varied learning opportunities are responsive to students' strengths, needs, interests and passions.**

# 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.**

# 3

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

# 4

**Engage students in analytical and critical thinking in order to identify and address global concerns.**

# 5

**Foster and embrace diversity, inclusiveness, and equity, with a focus on respect for and acceptance of every student.**

Learn more at [mercerislandschools.org](http://mercerislandschools.org).

## DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS



### WHO WE ARE

Mercer Island School District is composed of six schools located in Mercer Island, a city of 25,000 residents along I-90 in Lake Washington, between the cities of Seattle and Bellevue.



### ENROLLMENT (October 2021)

Districtwide.....	4,007
Island Park.....	378
Lakeridge.....	372
Northwood.....	359
West Mercer.....	427
Islander Middle School.....	955
Mercer Island High School & Crest Learning Center.....	1,516
STUDENTS ENROLLED IN MISD SCHOOLS AND/OR ANCILLARY PROGRAMS:	
Running Start.....	75
MI Online.....	70
Pathways.....	11
Early Childhood Education.....	24

### STUDENT PROGRAMS

Free/reduced price meals.....	3.3%
Students with Disabilities.....	9.9%
English Language Learners.....	2.9%

### STUDENT ETHNICITY

American Indian/Alaska Native .....	0.1%
Asian .....	25.6%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander...0.3%	
Black/African American.....	1.3%
Hispanic/Latino.....	6.5%
Two or more races.....	12.8%
White.....	53.4%

### STAFF ETHNICITY

American Indian/Alaska Native .....	0.0%
Asian .....	11.6%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander...1.1%	
Black/African American.....	2.5%
Hispanic/Latino.....	3.8%
Two or more races.....	2.4%
White.....	78.6%

For additional information, visit: [washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us](http://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us)



## CLASS OF 2021

### CLASS OF 2021 COLLEGE ATTENDANCE

2021 MIHS graduates.....	358
ATTENDING:	
In-state colleges.....	37.2%
Out-of-state colleges.....	52.8%
Two-year colleges.....	1.4%
Other programs .....	10.1%
Number of college/universities Class of 2021 is attending.....	
120	
Percentage attending four-year colleges .....	
88.5%	

### NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

National Merit Semifinalists .....	9
National Merit Commended Scholars .....	37

### AP TEST RESULTS

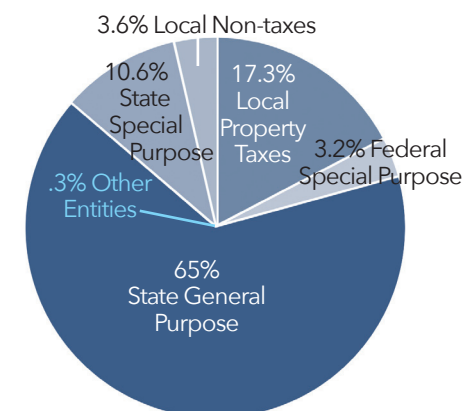
Students tested .....	410
AP tests taken .....	908
AP scores 3 and above.....	339
AP Scholars.....	74
AP Scholars With Honor.....	
38	
AP Scholars With Distinction.....	
70	

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

We are grateful to Mercer Island voters for their support of the District through local levies. The general fund relies on the Educational Maintenance and Operations levy to provide for additional staffing for class size reduction, a seven-period day, and special education. This year more than \$350,000 in local levy funds were spent on Covid-19 mitigation. The Capital Projects levy is used to maintain buildings, facility planning and instructional technology. The Transportation Vehicle levy is used to buy buses, and the Debt Service levy is used to pay interest and principal on the outstanding bonds approved by the community.

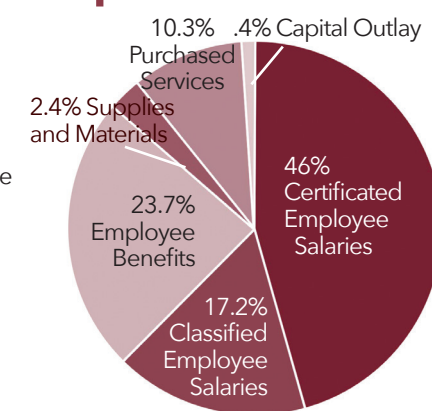
Revenues and expenditures are rounded off to the nearest tenth of a percent.

### revenues



Mercer Island students benefit from generous annual donations to the PTA/PTSAs and the Mercer Island Schools Foundation. For more information on the Mercer Island School District finances, visit [www.mercerislandschools.org](http://www.mercerislandschools.org).

### expenditures



The Mercer Island School District uses the funds entrusted to it by the community and state to fulfill its values, vision, and mission. These charts show how much revenue comes from each source and how it is spent.



Karla Rimmer



Carol Bus



## A SHOUT OUT!

**Our School Nurses**, led by Karla Rimmer, did an amazing job to make sure students and staff were healthy as we welcomed students back with hybrid instruction. Our nurses did yeoman's work communicating with families and developing protocols for hybrid learning while keeping transmission rates minuscule. We are so proud we had no significant transmission of Covid at our schools. Thank you to all our families and the community who helped make our schools such a safe place for students as we returned to the classroom.

**Food Services Director** Carol Bus joins Karla Rimmer as another staff member who deserves special praise. Carol implemented food service programs that served 197,470 meals to students in the District from the start of the pandemic in March 2019 to the end of the 2020-21 school year. Our amazing food services crew deserves a huge thanks.

**Our 12 instructional coaches** were celebrated by the PTA with their annual PTA Awards. The instructional coaches at each school helped our teachers adapt to the hybrid learning model, and were a big part of the success of students returning to classrooms.





MERCER ISLAND  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 400  
2020-2021  
Annual Report  
4160 86th Ave. SE  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

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Mercer Island, WA

## ECRWSS Postal Customer

### PATHFINDERS

This year's sixth annual Mercer Island School District's Pathfinder Awards were presented to graduates whose achievements, strength of character, and citizenship inspire and challenge today's youth to make significant contributions to humankind. Twenty alumni have now been recognized since the awards began in 2016.



#### **Kathy Taylor, Class of 1984**

Dr. Kathy Taylor, who recently passed away, was the state's only forensic anthropologist and worked for the King County Medical Examiner's office for 25 years. Kathy was an inspiration to young girls to pursue STEM careers, particularly in the area of criminal justice, said Lauren Bouju Davies, who nominated her for the Pathfinder Award. Davies is a 2017 MIHS graduate who is now studying forensic science at Seattle University. Taylor received her bachelor of science degree in anthropology and zoology from the University of Michigan and masters and doctoral degrees in anthropology from the University of Arizona. She was among just 100 active scientists with diplomate certification from the American Board of Forensic Anthropology and the only one in the state of Washington.



#### **Mickey Rowe, Class of 2007**

Legally blind and autistic, Mickey struggled with school and friendships as a child, but found sanctuary in the performing arts beginning at MIHS. He gained national acclaim when he became the first autistic actor to play any autistic character in a professional performance setting as Christopher Boone, the lead role in the Tony Award-winning play, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time." Mickey was the founding Artistic Director of the National Disability Theatre. A University of Washington graduate, Mickey has been featured in The New York Times, PBS, and other major news outlets, and has keynoted at organizations including the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York, The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Disability Rights Washington, Yale, and the Gershwin Theatre on Broadway.



#### **Hunter Goodman, Class of 1988**

Hunter Goodman served the public in appointed government positions for nearly two decades until his death from cancer in 2019. While with the Metropolitan King County Council, Goodman was instrumental in bringing together a diverse group of constituencies to develop a solution to King County's aquatic transfer to non-profits, helping to save the Mary Wayte Pool on Mercer Island from being closed. During his time with the Washington State Attorney General's office, Hunter was involved in the passage of 44 bills over eight years, including legislation regarding consumer protection, sexual predators, spyware and human trafficking laws. Goodman served as secretary of the Washington State Senate from 2013 to 2018, always in a bipartisan manner. He was a graduate of the University of Southern California with a bachelor of arts in political science and in history, and received his juris doctorate from the Seattle University School of Law.

### NONDISCRIMINATION NOTIFICATION

The Mercer Island School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

*Contact these people regarding inquiries about the nondiscrimination policies:*

#### **Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Coordinator:**

Erin Battersby, Executive Director 206-230-6227 [erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org](mailto:erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org)

#### **Title IX Compliance Coordinator:**

Erin Battersby, Executive Director 206-230-6227 [erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org](mailto:erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org)

#### **Section 504 & ADA Coordinator:**

Nova Williams, Assistant Director 206-236-4510 [nova.williams@mercerislandschools.org](mailto:nova.williams@mercerislandschools.org)

#### **Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator:**

Erin Battersby, Executive Director 206-230-6227 [erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org](mailto:erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org)

