



# MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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## Message from the Superintendent

On behalf of the Mercer Island School District's Board of Directors, our teachers, staff and students, I am pleased to present the 2016-17 Annual Report to the Mercer Island community.

This past school year marked not only the 75th anniversary for our district, but a significant milestone with the opening of our fourth elementary, Northwood, the first new public school constructed on Mercer Island in more than 50 years. The Northwood design by Mahlum Architects has received national acclaim as a model for 21st century learning.

The year also saw the opening of new classrooms, commons and gymnasiums at Islander Middle School. Both projects, completed on time and within budget, were the result of a successful bond proposition supported by the community in 2014.

This year also marked significant transitions for our district leadership. I am honored to have been selected as your new superintendent upon the retirement of Dr. Gary Plano, and we thank him for his 10 years of dedicated service to our Island community.

Also, leaving us this year are our two longest-serving School Board directors, Adair Dingle and Dave Myerson. Both have always put students first, and we are grateful to them for their service.

Inside this report, you will learn more about how the seven fundamentals (goals) of the District's 2020 Vision continue the culture of educational excellence in our Mercer Island schools.

Thank you for your continuing support. In my few short months here, I have already seen many examples of community investment in public education, whether through the Mercer Island Schools Foundation, PTA, or Boosters. Please know that whether or not you have a school-age child, you are always invited to attend District performances, concerts and athletic events. Please visit our website at [mercerislandschools.org](http://mercerislandschools.org) for current listings of school events.

Sincerely,  
Donna Colosky, Superintendent



- Mercer Island High School received a gold medal ranking among the nation's Best High Schools in the 2017 annual rankings by U.S. News & World Report for student achievement. Mercer Island is ranked 7th among Washington state high schools, and 419th nationally out of 28,500 high schools in the United States. Gold medal recognition was given to only 2.4 percent of the nation's high schools this past year by U.S. News. MIHS was also ranked 139th among the nation's Best High Schools for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).
- Island Park, Lakeridge and West Mercer Elementary and Islander Middle School (IMS) were named recipients of 2016 Washington Achievement Awards. Island Park earned awards for High Progress and English Language Acquisition; Lakeridge, West Mercer and Islander for High Progress.
- Lakeridge Elementary is among the 2017 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award honorees. Lakeridge was honored for its innovative efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, improve health and wellness, and ensure effective sustainability education. Only two Washington state schools were selected this year.
- Ten Mercer Island High School seniors were named National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists, and 25 as Commended Scholars. Semifinalists represent less than 1 percent of high school seniors nationally.
- Adam Tucker, a 2017 graduate of Mercer Island High School, achieved a rare distinction by earning perfect scores on two Advanced Placement (AP) exams, in calculus and microeconomics. Adam was one of three students in the United States to get 100 percent on two AP Exams.
- The MIHS girls basketball team, led by state player of the year senior Anna Luce and coached by Gillian d'Hondt, won its first-ever State 3A championship.
- The Mercer Island High School Wind Ensemble was selected to perform at the National Association for Music Education Northwest Conference. The Wind Ensemble was chosen for this immense honor from a pool of applicants consisting of collegiate, high school, middle school and elementary performing ensembles from Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon and Alaska.
- Thirty-two Mercer Island High School students in band, choir and orchestra were selected to participate in the 2017 National Association for Music Education (NAfME) All-State and All-Northwest honor groups.
- Mahlum Architects was awarded a national Award of Excellence from the AIA Committee on Architecture for Education for its design of Northwood Elementary School, one of only five given this year.
- KMIH, 88.9 The Bridge, received the general excellence award as the top high school radio station in the state. Radio students received eight Golden Microphone awards at the 77th Annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Conference and Awards in New York City.
- Ninety-three Mercer Island High School students qualified to compete in the Washington State DECA State Career Development Conference, and 19 advanced to the International Career Development Conference.
- Sam Bailey and Katy Spencer, as juniors at Mercer Island High School, were named as recipients of the Mike Yarrow Peace Fellowship for 2017-2018. The fellowship provides a monetary grant to recipients, along with training and mentorship to develop a social justice campaign or project of their choice for the year.
- Mercer Island High School science teacher Patty Weston won the 2017 American Chemical Society (ACS) Division of Chemical Education Glenn and Jane Crosby Northwest Region Award for Excellence in High School Teaching.

Points  
of Pride



## 2017 Graduates



Ninety-eight percent of the graduates from the Class of 2017 continued their education; 94% at a four-year institution and 4% at a two-year school. Students from the Class of 2017 are attending 110 different colleges and universities across the nation and world.

### Where did they go?

Arcadia University, Arizona State University, Barnard College, Bellevue College, Big Bend Community College, Boise State University, Boston Conservatory of Berklee, California Institute of Technology, California Lutheran University, California Polytechnic State University SLO, Central Washington University, Carnegie Mellon University, Colgate University, Colorado School of Mines, Columbia University, Cornell University, Creighton University, Culinary Institute of America, Dartmouth College, Dickinson College, Duke University, Emory University, Fordham University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Gonzaga University, Harvard University, Hofstra University, Indiana University, Johns Hopkins University, King's College of London UK, Knox College, Laguna College of Art and Design, Lake Washington Institute

of Technology, Lehigh University, Les Roches International School of Hotel Management, Lewis & Clark College, Loyola Marymount University, Macalester College, Massachusetts College of Art & Design, McGill University, Miami University of Ohio, Montana State University, New York School of Interior Design, New York University, North Carolina State University, Northeastern University, Northwestern University, Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building, Oberlin College, Oregon State University, Pacific Lutheran University, Parsons The New School, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Purdue University, Reed College, Santa Clara University, Savannah College of Art & Design, School of Visual Arts, NY, Seattle Central College, Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University, St. George's University of London, St. Martin's University, Stanford University, SUNY Stony Brook, St. George's University of London, Temple University- Japan Campus, Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, The New School, Tufts University, Tulane University, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Arizona, University of California (Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara), University of Chicago, University of Colorado, University of Denver, University of Findlay, University of Idaho, University of Michigan, University of New Mexico, University of Oregon, University of Portland, University of Puget Sound, University of Redlands, University of San Diego, University of San Francisco, University of Southern California, University of St Andrews UK, University of Washington (Bothell, Seattle, Tacoma), US Military Academy West Point, Vanderbilt University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Walla Walla Community College, Washington State University, Washington University in St. Louis, Wellesley College, Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, Whitman College, Whittier College, Willamette University, Woodbury University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Yale University



### 2017 Pathfinder Award Winners

The District presented its second annual Pathfinder Awards to graduates of Mercer Island High School whose achievements, strength of character, and citizenship inspire and challenge today's youth.

They were honored at the Mercer Island Schools Foundation's Breakfast of Champions, and a permanent Pathfinder Award display was created at Mercer Island High School alongside previously recognized distinguished graduates.

The three Pathfinders were selected from nominations submitted by the community at large, and chosen by a 13-member selection committee. For more information on the Pathfinder Awards and to nominate a distinguished MIHS alumna, visit [mercerislandschools.org/alumni](http://mercerislandschools.org/alumni).

#### Patricia (Trish) Coffey, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Class of 1979, Program advisor and leader of the Health Technologies for Women and Children group at PATH, a nonprofit global-health organization. She pioneered user-centered product development for reproductive and maternal newborn health technologies.

#### Leslie Hendricks Fall, M.D.

Class of 1981, Pediatrician/adjunct professor in the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College. A nationally recognized expert in faculty development, learning design and use of technology in medical education, she is co-founder/executive director of MedU, transforming medical education by bringing virtual case studies and online learning to medical school students.

#### Adrian Hanauer

Class of 1984. Majority owner of Seattle Sounders FC, he kept the flame of professional soccer alive in Seattle then helped reignite the community's passion for the game with the arrival of a Major League Soccer expansion franchise in 2009, and culminating with the Sounders' first MLS Cup championship in 2016.

**Pathfinder  
Awards Honor  
MIHS Alumni**

Mercer Island School District's

# 2020

## VISION & MISSION



### VISION:

Our students will thrive in the cognitive, global and digital world while sustaining their passion and inspiration for learning.

### MISSION:

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.

### Learning Goals for Students

The Mercer Island School Board's most important responsibility is to develop the Vision, Mission, and Goals, or what we call Fundamentals: areas of knowledge and skill that drive our instructional program in order to prepare students for the cognitive and digital world and a global economy. The Vision, Mission and Fundamentals provide the educational framework for the entire District.

The School Board annually monitors these fundamentals for progress. As part of this monitoring, the School Board reviews qualitative and quantitative indicators gathered by our instructional and learning services teams. These indicators range from descriptions of classroom projects and student activities to data such as test scores and survey results.

During 2016-17, the School Board successfully monitored all seven fundamentals of our 2020 Vision. This report contains examples of the indicators used to monitor these fundamental goals.

### Growing collaboration between MIHS and Northwood

With the two schools adjacent to each other, Mercer Island High School and Northwood Elementary have developed a growing collaboration.

"Students on both sides are very excited to be learning and interacting with one another and we are building connections between teachers that can continue into the years to come," said Peggy Aguilar, MIHS Spanish teacher and instructional coach.

Advanced MIHS ceramics students worked with Northwood second graders to form relief tiles about organisms, based on the students' drawings. On the first visit, the high schoolers visited Northwood, carving and adding new clay to the tiles. About three weeks later, the second graders walked to the high school ceramics room to glaze their pieces with brightly-colored underglazes.

MIHS science teacher Aaron Noble and his Physics 1 honors students came to Northwood to work with third graders in Jessie Dye's class on their chemical test experiment rotations.

Spanish teachers Kyla Keeler from MIHS and Ashley Joseph from Northwood paired their classes together to read books the third-year high school Spanish program students wrote and illustrated.

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





# 2



**Maintain the highest standards in the areas of fine arts; health/fitness; literacy—reading, writing and communications; mathematics; science; social studies and world languages.**

## **MISD receives Apple Distinguished Program award and serves as model for other schools**

The Apple Distinguished Program designation is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence, and demonstrate a clear vision of exemplary learning environments. Mercer Island has received the award twice.

The district hosted a tour for visitors from schools around the state, demonstrating the use of iPads in classrooms at Mercer Island High School, Islander Middle School and Lakeridge Elementary. MISD's 1:1 iPad program currently extends from grades three through 12, with more than 3,000 devices now in use.

With a dedicated iPad for each student, teachers are able to engage their classes on a new level. Particularly powerful is the ability for students to have instant timely access to online research. Classrooms in the elementary schools are also using iPads in innovative ways.

For students, the iPad not only provides them an organizational tool, but it also opens up new opportunities for students to personalize their own learning and explore topics of their own interest outside of class time. Having the common, versatile, digital tool of the iPad has allowed teachers to be more flexible in allowing students to choose the format to demonstrate their information and provide the formative data to help them better respond to the needs of their students.

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



## **Building character at IMS**

Sixth graders at Islander Middle School work with a program called Character Strong. The purpose of the program is to study eight positive character traits including patience, kindness, humility, respect, selflessness, forgiveness, honesty and commitment.

The students work to understand the meaning behind each trait, and then practice developing the trait using a concept called "character dares." Once the character dare challenges begin, teachers have the opportunity to open up conversations about issues facing students, enabling the teacher to become a mentor to the students they serve.

The whole school focuses on one character trait each month (October– May). The school shares the character dares during morning announcements, and invites every student to participate in growing his/her character throughout the year. IMS communicates home each month about the traits and the dares and encourages families to be aware and talk about them together.

**Encourage and enable students to be academic entrepreneurs and risk-takers who can choose to pursue academic passions and interests beyond traditional curriculum and beyond the traditional classroom environment.**



## **Radio station provides unique opportunities for students**

The Mercer Island High School student radio station is now *KMIH 88.9 The Bridge*.

"Our vision is that The Bridge will serve as a link to the Mercer Island community as well as the local music community," said broadcast media instructor Joe Bryant. "My program is based on giving young broadcasters opportunities to tell stories and create audio art with words and music on a worldwide stage."

Students in Bryant's advanced radio broadcasting class are challenged to communicate, interview, and network with professionals accomplished in the fields they hope to pursue for careers. Students must reach beyond the school walls to find guests, request interviews, and network with people who may serve as valuable mentors.

They are truly getting a hands-on educational experience on how to operate an FCC-licensed 24-7 radio station and how to broadcast shows that attract listeners. Tune in locally at 88.9 FM and worldwide at [www.889thebridge.org](http://www.889thebridge.org). The station's new app for iPhone is available free in the iTunes store.

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# 3

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**Cultivate and foster thinking and process skills such as analytical and critical thinking, cross-discipline thinking, creativity, innovation, leadership, collaboration, communication, problem-solving, and information and technology literacy in curriculum design.**

**Destination Imagination challenges participants to learn to solve problems**

This extracurricular program takes place after school for interested students at elementary, middle, and high school levels. The purpose of the program is to inspire and equip students to become the next generation of innovators and leaders. The program presents students with a challenge to tackle quickly. With support from coaches, students learn to imagine and innovate solutions to their challenges. They work collaboratively with their teams to create, develop, and practice a solution to the challenge. Following that they compete in a local tournament, and, if successful, advance through tournament levels to the Global Finals. This year, 21 teams took part in the regional tournament, nine of these teams moved on to the state competition, and three of the teams moved on to the Global Finals.



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**Cultivate Global Awareness and understanding of real-world problems, issues, concerns, commonalities, differences and interdependence.**

**Elementary Spanish Language Program begins**

With the creation and implementation of the Elementary Spanish Language Program, students began their journey into global education. Students gain communication skills in an immersion environment that will help them in any language they may later pursue in life.

Not only does learning another language promote global learning, but the skills developed in a foreign language class also transfer into the general education classroom and into students' daily lives. This includes creativity, perseverance, problem solving, and critical thinking. With the emphasis the World Language Program places on a Spanish-speaking country for each unit, students are taught to compare their culture and customs to those of citizens around the world. As the year progressed, student curiosity grew tremendously, finding ways to make sense of their world through issues



presented in class. By starting the World Language Program at the elementary level, students are more likely to become culturally competent citizens, preparing them for a global, multilingual environment with tolerance and understanding toward other cultures.

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

**School teams provide leadership in diversity, equity and inclusion**

The Diversity Action Teams at each school provided opportunities for student and staff engagement around topics of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

At the high school, both staff and students participated in an implicit bias activity. Participants learned what is implicit bias and how it affects our everyday interactions. MIHS held a successful student forum during BRIDGES. As a result, MIHS plans to hold a series of these workshops to allow students' voices to be heard through meaningful conversations.

At the middle school, the committee has focused its work analyzing the grade 6-8 curriculum to determine whether it supports diversity, equity and inclusion for all IMS students.

The elementary school teams adopted a Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement. All elementary school staff met three times with consultant Dr. Caprice Hollins. Her work with teachers involves educating, sensitizing, and reflecting around issues of race, privilege, stereotype, implicit bias and issues of equity in schools.



The District has had an influx of English Language Learners, and to support them, each grade level has a teacher leader who engaged in six days of training in Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD), a collection of strategies to support English Language Learners in developing language skills alongside content learning. These leaders have led their colleagues in professional development sessions.

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## Who We Are

Mercer Island School District is composed of six schools located on Mercer Island, a community of 24,000 residents along I-90 in Lake Washington, between the cities of Seattle and Bellevue.

### Total Student Enrollment (June 2017): 4,423

Island Park.....	398
Lakeridge.....	490
Northwood.....	455
West Mercer.....	511
Islander Middle School....	1,130
Mercer Island High School & Crest Learning Center... 1,439	
Running Start Students.....	30

### Special Programs

Free/reduced-price meals....	2.9%
Special Education.....	9.2%
Transitional Bilingual.....	3.5%

### Student Race/Ethnicity

American Indian/Alaska Native...	0.2%
Asian.....	20.3%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.....	0.2%
Black/African American.....	1.1%
Hispanic/Latino.....	4.4%
Two or more races.....	8.5%
White.....	65.6%

### Certificated Staff

American Indian/Alaska Native...	0.7%
Asian/Pacific Islander.....	5.7%
Black/African American.....	0.4%
Hispanic/Latino.....	2.1%
White.....	90.1%

### Classified Staff

American Indian/Alaska Native...	0.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander.....	8.4%
Black/African American.....	4.0%
Hispanic/Latino.....	4.8%
White.....	83.0%

## Mercer Island Test Scores

### 2016-2017 results: Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA), and Measurement of Student Progress (MSP)

		English Language Arts	Math	Science (MSP)
Grade 3	MISD	81.7%	82.0%	
	WA State	52.6%	57.8%	
Grade 4	MISD	85.3%	83.8%	
	WA State	55.2%	54.3%	
Grade 5	MISD	90.1%	83.8%	92.3%
	WA State	58.6%	48.6%	63.4%
Grade 6	MISD	80.9%	76.3%	
	WA State	55.5%	48.2%	
Grade 7	MISD	86.8%	78.1%	
	WA State	60.1%	49.9%	
Grade 8	MISD	80.0%	81.0%	92.8%
	WA State	58.5%	47.6%	65.9%

### 2016-2017 results: High School Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)

	English Language Arts
MISD Grade 11	94.2
WA State	73.6

### 2016-2017 results: High School End-of-Course (EOC)

	EOC Biology
MISD Grades 9-12	92.4%
WA State	71.5%

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

### High School ACT Mean Scores

Class of 2017	
Composite	28.0
English	26.4
Mathematics	27.0
Reading	27.2
Science	25.7

### AP Test Results

Class of 2017	
Total Tests Taken	793
Scores of 3 & Above	716
AP Scholars	52
With Honor	42
With Distinction	45
National Scholars	7

### High School SAT Mean Scores

Class of 2017	
Evidence Based Reading & Writing	649
Math	666

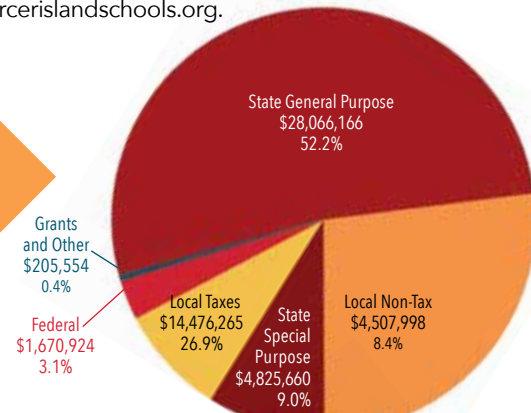
### National Merit Scholars

Class of 2017	
Semi-Finalists	11
Commended Scholars	24

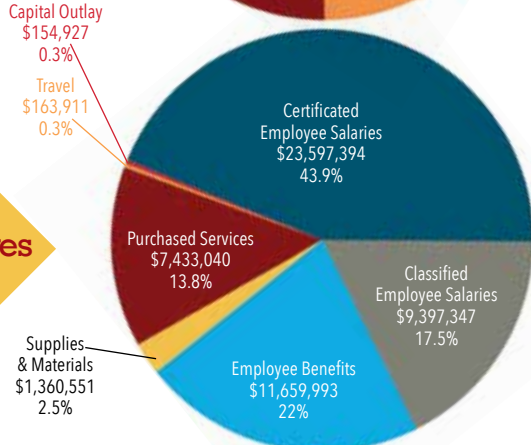
## Financial Stewardship

The Mercer Island School District uses the funds entrusted to it by the community and the state to fulfill its mission to educate and prepare students for the future. The charts below show how much revenue comes from each source and how it is spent. Mercer Island students benefit from nearly \$2 million in annual donations to the PTA/PTSA's and the Mercer Island Schools Foundation. For more information on the Mercer Island School District finances, visit [www.mercerislandschools.org](http://www.mercerislandschools.org).

### Total Revenue



### Total Expenditures



Financials  
Demographics  
Assessments





Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit 19  
Mercer Island, WA

## Mercer Island School District 2016-2017 Annual Report

4160 86th Avenue SE  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

# ECRWSS Postal Customer

### The Mercer Island School District Board of Directors

The five members of the Mercer Island School District Board of Directors are elected to four-year terms by Mercer Island voters. Specific responsibilities include, but are not limited to: planning and goal setting; employing and evaluating the superintendent; setting district policy; adopting an annual operating budget; making decisions about placing levies and bonds before voters; approving the instructional program; and ratifying contracts negotiated with the local bargaining unit. Individual board member email addresses can be found at [www.mercerislandschools.org/board](http://www.mercerislandschools.org/board)



Tracy Drinkwater  
2015 - 2019



David D'Souza  
2015 - 2019



Ralph Jorgenson  
2015 - 2019



Deborah Lurie  
2017 - 2021



Brian Giannini Upton  
2017 - 2021



Donna Colosky  
Secretary of the Board

### 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.

The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Coordinator:  
Erin Battersby, Senior Director  
206-230-6227 • [erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org](mailto:erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org)

Title IX Compliance Coordinator: Erin Battersby, Senior Director  
206-230-6227 • [erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org](mailto:erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org)

Section 504 & ADA Coordinator: Dr. Lindsay Myatich, Director  
206-236-3326 • [lindsay.myatich@mercerislandschools.org](mailto:lindsay.myatich@mercerislandschools.org)

Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator: Erin Battersby  
206-230-6227 • [erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org](mailto:erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org)