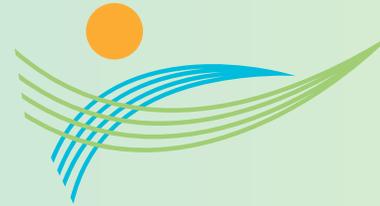


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PT SCHOOLS



Superintendent
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Message from the Superintendent



Levy Facts - School Funding Model Update

by Dr. John Polm

Port Townsend schools will be placing two support levies on the ballot on Feb. 12, 2019. The proposals enable the district to maintain current levels of programming and services. One levy provides educational resources, while the other funds capital needs.

Our community is engaged with the schools through volunteering, involvement in PTAs and the Port Townsend Education Foundation, and participation in many connected groups.

The school district has a unique vision for our schools. We are working to create educational experiences that are integrated with our local community, to build relationships and a sense of stewardship for the place we live.

That vision is guided by our core beliefs:

- Learning is embedded in authentic activities and projects.
- Learning is connected day to day and year to year.
- Our maritime community, in all its facets, provides rich resources for place-based learning.
- Empowered learners own their learning.
- Meaningful relationships develop while learning.
- Innovation impacts real community needs.

The upcoming levies provide funding for educational experiences related to our core beliefs and other needs not funded by state or other funding sources.

Residents currently are paying \$1.53 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the

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High School students practice for an upcoming concert. Photo by Jan Boutilier.

Music Program Trains Student Musicians

The Port Townsend School District has a popular and thriving music program. It introduces all students to music with a weekly class for kindergarten through fifth grade.

For both middle and high school students, there is band and an orchestra class. At Blue Heron Middle School, there is wind ensemble, and a music and technology class. Each week, 789 students participate in music during the school day across the district, with more who participate in after-school programs.

The students' talent and dedication were on display Dec. 8 during the fifth annual Winter Stringfest community concert. About 150 orchestra students from grades four through 12 shared their music with the community.

Salish Coast Elementary

This fall, 30 Salish Coast students in grades four and five participated in an after-school pilot program called YEA Music! The free program was led by fiddle instructor Bobbi Nikles and choir teacher Larry Pepper. The district plans to offer a spring session this year and expand it for next school year.

Blue Heron Middle School

On Oct. 11, the Blue Heron Orchestra students held a Rock-A-Thon fundraiser during which they "rocked" in chairs from 3 to 7 p.m. They played games and socialized with their friends while they raised more than \$2,000 for instrument repair, new music, instruction and future trips.

Some of the string players at Blue Heron this year will have the opportunity to play in a chamber ensemble program, spearheaded by Kristin Smith.

Port Townsend High School

Port Townsend High School students have experienced an "Academy of Music," inaugurated this year. In a 10-week session, students worked one-on-one with coaches to develop their skills. The high-quality team of instructors includes: Matt McBride-Daline, chamber ensemble coach and string consultant; Maryann Tapiro, cello coach; Mike McLeron, double-bass coach; Jane Stuessy, violin coach; Kristin Smith, violin and viola coach; Amelia Breithaupt, viola coach.

The Port Townsend High School orchestra was accepted along with 20 other schools in the state to participate in the 2019 Western Washington University State Orchestra Festival. The event is sponsored by the American String Teachers Association and the WWU School of Music.

The students will first travel to Bremerton High School to play in a concert on March 14 in the newly remodeled Bremerton High School Performing Arts Center, which seats 1,200 people. It will be a joint concert with the orchestras of Bremerton and Central Kitsap high schools.

The Port Townsend students will stay overnight and then travel to Seattle the next morning for a day of activities before they leave for Western Washington University in Bellingham. They will attend an evening concert at the WWU School of Music, during which will meet other orchestra students from around the state.

On March 16, they will take part in the adjudicated festival. Friends, family and supporters are welcome to attend the free event to cheer on the students.

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expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy. The two replacement measures combined will result in approximately the same rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation: \$1.53 in 2020, \$1.54 in 2021 and \$1.55 in 2022.

The proposed Educational Programs and School Support Levy will allow the district to collect \$2,500 per student or \$3,030,000 in 2020, \$3,195,00 in 2021, and \$3,375,000 in 2022. The levy would fill the gap left by insufficient state funding.

The funds would support:

- Attract, train and retain qualified staff.
- Provide special education services (backfilling what state and federal funding does not cover).
- Provide needed classified and teaching staff over state funding to support classrooms and school operations.
- Supplement and replace library materials.
- Support a farm-to-school nutrition and wellness program.
- Provide extra-curricular and co-curricular programs, including sports and music.
- Support maritime and place-based programming.

The proposed capital levy would replace the previous levy collected from 2012-16. If approved, the funds would be collected from 2020-22 and provide an aggregate total of \$3,625,000 for the district's Capital Projects Fund. The proposed capital levy is intended to provide for maintenance of buildings currently in use.

The funds would support:

- Improving learning spaces and facilities needed for asset preservation.
- Supporting ADA access for Port Townsend High School.
- Updating student technology, including assistive technology.
- Updating equipment and infrastructure to support student learning.
- Continuing to develop systems to support student safety and security.
- Expanding school garden programs.

For more information visit pstschoools.org/levy



Blue Heron student creating upcycled CD mandala art at Lunch @ Your Library.

School and Public Library Collaboration

Blue Heron student create upcycled CD mandala during at Lunch @ Your Library. The Port Townsend School District and the city of Port Townsend Public Library are connected through a unique partnership.

When students start school in Port Townsend, they get a library card that can stay with them for as long as they live here. With that one card, students can stay connected to the library's collaborative collection — digital and print — and databases, and they can use the resources at school, home or at the public library.

The white city of Port Townsend car can be seen making its daily visit to the school district to drop off and pick up books for students, staff and families, as well as deliver any books public library patrons request from the school collection.

The libraries share a common mission: to encourage love of literature, to promote literacy, and to prepare our young citizens to be creators and problem-solvers. The collaboration reaches

beyond shared resources. Throughout the school year, students meet with Port Townsend School District Teacher Librarian Joy Wentzel and Port Townsend Public Library Youth Services Manager Hilary Verheggen to plan and enjoy STEM and literacy-based programs.

Lunch @ Your Library is one that occurs every month at Blue Heron Middle School and Port Townsend High School. Students got to the library, enjoy their lunch and learn a new skill. Wentzel and Verheggen also run robotics classes at Salish Coast Elementary and host parenting programs on Digital Literacy and Media Mentorship.

"Momentum is building, and it is a beautiful thing!" Wentzel said. "Students are initiating projects: ideas for after school 'crafternoons' and student-led book clubs. Local artists are coming in to discuss their path to art and teaching breakout sessions."

Our collaboration allows us to build a strong community of lifelong learners.

This past summer, the Blue Heron and high school libraries both received updates to their look and organization. The spaces were reorganized to make them more open, warm and welcoming. The collections are regularly refreshed to make sure students can find favorite fiction books and current non-fiction texts.

Food Service: Locally Based Health and Nutrition

Port Townsend School District's food service program provides fresh, locally sourced food to students every day. Students not only gain access to healthy foods, they also get their hands dirty in school gardens, take cooking classes and visit farms on field trips. That level of engagement with local food sources is part of the district's vision of place-based education. A farm-to-school model has the added benefit of strengthening our local economy and contributing to our vibrant agricultural community.

Partnerships with local farmers and food producers are key to the success of the program. The monthly hamburger offering is sourced from Westbrook Angus in Chimacum Valley. Fresh produce such as kale and potatoes comes from Red Dog Farm, also in Chimacum. When deli sandwiches are served, the bread comes from Pan D'Amore bakery in Uptown Port Townsend.

The Port Townsend Food Coop has been a longtime supporter of farm-to-cafeteria food in Port Townsend. Most recently, it raised more than \$14,000 to support local and organic foods served in Port Townsend schools.

The school lunch menu is full of delicious options such as pesto pasta with chicken, vegetarian chili and gyros with Mediterranean salad, plus seasonal and holiday meal offerings.

Breakfast is served daily and can include fresh baked muffins, cereal and fresh fruit. Staff members provide vegetarian and gluten-free options, as well as accommodating food allergies.

With all those features, Port Townsend School District meals are still affordable. For students, breakfast costs \$1.50 to \$1.75, while lunch is \$2.75 to \$3. Adults pay \$4 to \$5 for lunch. Low-income families qualify for free or reduced-priced meals, making healthy food available to everyone.

Students get to be involved in generating healthy menu choices. Each year, the

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Students learn together in the elementary school garden. Photo by Shelly Randall.

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seventh-grade class studies nutrition and cooking, and then designs new menu items in Mr. Tallarico's physical education class. One of their suggestions is selected and added to the menu by the food service department. If it is well-liked, it remains on the menu like the popular "Healthy Nachos with Fun Fixings."

School gardens

Port Townsend High School has a strong garden program that is integrated into the ninth-grade health and careers class. Students go to the garden once a week to participate in planting, tending and harvesting fruits and vegetables.

Some of the food they take directly back to classrooms, where they make healthy snacks and meals, and the rest either goes to the school meals program or is donated to the food bank.

During the summer, a coordinator and volunteers maintain the garden. Vegetables are put up and preserved for later use in the school meals program.

Salish Coast Elementary has plans for a large teaching garden, and eventually a production garden, to increase the amount of vegetables that can go from the school garden into cafeteria meals. Elementary students will participate in a regular garden class, with opportunities for cooking.

With support from a Healthy Kids and Healthy Schools grant from the state, composting and worm bins will be installed at both the elementary and high school gardens. Students will compost food waste from their cafeterias, as well as participate in many hands-on science activities about composting.

Maritime Discovery Schools: Five Years of Progress

Port Townsend School District is in its fifth year of the Maritime Discovery Schools initiative. The vision of a strong place-based learning curriculum with a maritime focus is fully in place. From preschool to 12th grade, students have multiple opportunities each year to engage in community-connect-ed learning.

About 80 different community partners collaborate with teachers and students, offering a diversity of experiences for students.

Kindergarteners learn about native plants and study Port Townsend. They publish a book that is displayed at the visitors center.

First- and second-graders visit Fort Worden to learn about the beaches and forests; in the fall, they see the salmon run at Chimacum Creek; in the spring, they return to release salmon they have raised from eggs.

In fifth grade, students spend a year studying oceans and the impact of humans on the marine landscape. Students look for solutions to large-scale environmental challenges such as ocean acidification and the troubles of whales in the Salish Sea.

Sixth-grade students spend time in the spring at Centrum, culminating with a performance of music, art and theater.

In seventh grade, students restore salmon habitat and plant native trees, and they participate in sailing long boats, learn about marine trades at the Northwest Maritime Center, and ride bikes to the boatyard to learn about the restoration of the historic Western Flyer.

In ninth grade, students work each week in the garden, growing vegetables for school meals. They also meet monthly with Skillmation mentors, who help them explore their interests and future career possibilities.

Any high school student can take a career technical education class with a Maritime focus. In those classes, they build underwater robots and stand-up paddle boards, sail boats, or learn the basics of woodworking.

Throughout the school district, students are exploring how they can make a positive impact on their community. They are learning about where they live and making meaningful connections with adults. Through

the Maritime Discovery Schools projects, all students learn to swim, ride a bike and build a boat, and they grow as readers, writers and mathematicians.

The district plans to carry forward the vision of the Maritime Discovery Schools initiative. Teachers and community partners will continue to collaborate to create high-quality learning experiences for all of our students.

The school district is committed to its mission as a leader in maritime and place-based learning.

Maritime Education Preparing Students For Careers

When the Maritime Discovery Schools initiative started in 2013, a new Maritime Career and Technical program at the high school quietly came to life. Five years later, that program has evolved into three branches of course offerings: Maritime Trades and Woodworking, Underwater Robotics and Vessel Operations.

The program also partners with West Sound Technical Skills Center to offer summer school opportunities. Additional local partnerships offer after-school programming.

Students are finding success in careers and colleges as a direct result of their high school

experiences working around and on boats, both on land and on sea.

Student Profiles

In 2013-14, **Henry Veitenhans** was a student in the first Maritime Studies class at Port Townsend High School. Students were asked to choose a region of the world, study the indigenous boat designs and build a model boat. As part of the assignment, they needed to design a float/race plan, describing the advantages of their selected traditional boat design for the first Race to Alaska. And so the *Jimmy Horten*, an aluminum-welded sharpie sailing boat, was born.

Two years later, Veitenhans, his dad, another PTHS Maritime student named Sean Westlund, and Port Townsend students Malachi Church and River Yearian completed the 750-nautical-mile human- and sail-powered race in the Johnny Horten. Veitenhans is now a student at Willamette University, where he is studying political science. The Race to Alaska kickstarted Westlund's commercial fishing career.

Ellis Henderson was enrolled as a sophomore in the same Maritime Studies class as Veitenhans. As part of their final, Henderson studied a career in underwater welding and used that opportunity to

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A third-grade student on a beach walk at Fort Worden. Photo by Shelly Randall.

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apply to West Sound Tech in Bremerton to join the welding program. He completed the course before he graduated from Port Townsend High School in 2017.

The following year, he enrolled in a welding course at Peninsula College and completed a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree in welding. Henderson is working toward a Master's degree in diving certification and has started the process of joining the Pile Drivers Union. In the meantime, he is employed in Port Townsend at the boatyard and doing housing construction, using both carpentry and welding.

He credits the PTHS Maritime Studies class as sparking his interest in working with tools and construction, and sending him down the path toward a career in welding.

Former boat-building student **Jacob Massie**, a 2017 Port Townsend High School graduate, first considered a maritime career while he was on a three-day field trip aboard the Schooner Adventuress as part of the Maritime classes. Through discussions with his teacher, Kelley Watson, Massie learned about the Tongue Point Job Corps program in Astoria, Oregon, a federally funded program to support students learning trade skills. Massie plans to graduate in June 2019 from Tongue Point with his Able Bodied Seamans and his Qualified Member of the Engineering Department document. He hopes to be employed on a tanker vessel in order to maximize his time at sea.

Ally Bradley, a 2017 Port Townsend High School graduate, was a recipient of the Youth Maritime Training Association scholarship last spring for her engineering and maritime interests throughout her high school career.

Bradley was enrolled in Maritime Studies, Vessel Operations and Underwater Robotics courses throughout her high school career. For her senior project, Bradley combined CAD design and computer engineering with traditional craft and boat-building skills to design a skin-on-frame pram (small boat) that could be cut with a CNC machine out of a single sheet of Marine Plywood.



Schooner School students aboard the schooner *Martha*.

Bradley is now headed to the University of Washington to pursue a career in engineering. Her work at PTHS embodies the vision for the MDS Initiative: "Port Townsend graduates will be college ready, with strong academic preparation in STEM subject areas, prepared for any future of their choosing. And should they choose a maritime path, they will be ready for advanced study at a maritime training school or able to join the workforce immediately, utilizing one of the many skills acquired during a previous apprenticeship or independent project."

Now a junior, PTHS student **Matt McColl** has been taking Maritime classes since his freshman year. He has taken a Vessel Operations class and an afterschool Drill Conductor Course, and he has spent two years in the boatbuilding class. After his experience building a skin-on-frame kayak and a stand-up paddle board, he was hired by Pygmy Kayak as a member of the shop team.

This year, McColl is trying his hand at the Maritime Manufacturing class, during which the students make fine furniture and help with the Schooner Adventuress winter maintenance.

He plans to attend a maritime academy when he graduates from high school and is considering engineering as a career.

Schooner School

Last spring, an entire crew of competent mariners participated in a Drill Conductor Course as part of a pilot program called Schooner School funded by Workforce Development. Students took part in a U.S. Coast Guard-approved safety course designed around commercial fishing vessel safety protocols. The course included afternoon sailing aboard the vessels Schooner Martha and the Yawl Pacifica. Exciting outcomes of the Schooner School program were volunteer crew/apprentice positions this summer aboard the Schooners Martha and Adventuress, offered to students Odin Smith, Jenna Heigel and Katie Ballard. In addition, one OCEAN student who wishes to remain anonymous played a key role in starting a dewatering pump aboard the historic passenger vessel Lotus upon its launch in late August.

One witness who approached teacher Kelley Watson at the Wooden Boat Festival said, "Your student saved the Lotus! We were struggling to

start the dewatering pump, and your student said, 'I can do that.'"

The haul-out crew encouraged him to help, so he hopped aboard the boat and quietly shared his knowledge on priming the pump, a skill that was learned and practiced in the Drill Conductor course. The pump sputtered to life, and the rising water was abated.

Adventures at Sea

Last summer was the second year of the Maritime Adventures at Sea summer class aboard the Schooner Adventuress, in partnership with West Sound Technical Skills Center.

Thirty-six students from multiple school districts participated in a weeklong career and technical education course in basic vessel operations. Students took part in all aspects of running the historic Schooner Adventuress during the course of the week.

One student said, "I learned so many things, I can hardly count them, and therefore I know this is an experience I will never forget. Every day aboard the Schooner Adventuress was a new challenge, filled with excitement, hard work and the happiness of overcoming an obstacle."

All of these unique opportunities exist because of the partner organizations and volunteers.

Thank you to the Northwest Maritime Center, Schooner Adventuress and Sound Experience, Schooner Martha Foundation, the Port Townsend School of Woodworking, Edensaw Lumber, the Port Townsend Education Foundation, the United States Maritime Academy, Skagit Valley Center for Maritime Excellence, Washington Sea Grant, Alaska Marine Safety Education Association, West Sound Technical Skills Center, Seattle Maritime Academy, and to dedicated volunteers Steve Habersetzer and Mitch Poling.

For more information, visit Port Townsend Maritime Academy, ptschools.org/maritimeacademy

For the Summer Adventures at Sea registration, beginning March 15, visit West Sound Tech at bremertonschools.org/wstsc



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