

# PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## *Compass*

**Career and Technical Education**  
**Superintendent Select**  
**School Construction Update**

**Spring 2021**



# A Message from the Superintendent



DR. ART JARVIS  
Superintendent

Spring is evident everywhere around us, but nowhere more than in the school district. The pandemic cast a long winter-like shadow for many months, but now we are experiencing the laughter and energy of the schools and it feels wonderful.

Planning for next year is underway. Our goal is to provide full-time schooling in the fall - five days of school every week with more normal class sizes enabled by 3-foot distancing rather than the 6-foot distancing requirements of this year. The excitement is already building!

Clearly, major change is in the air. Our new superintendent, Krestin Bahr, has already been visiting schools and staff in preparation for her official start in July 2021. Program changes and additions are being finalized. Our very own "Navy Junior ROTC" (officially, Navy National

Defense Cadet Corps) is underway and the response has been fabulous. Our planning for the new Academies at Henderson Bay programs are well into the details to extend and expand the variety of pathways available to students.

An exciting new element within the Academies is the Global Virtual Academy, offering virtual learning options for any K-12 student next year. The last year has demonstrated that many families have found virtual learning options fit well with their children. Interested parents are urged to make contact and explore these options.

Yes, spring is officially here, and it is decidedly welcome. Stay tuned as the district shares more information in readiness for a great fall of 2021. Stay masked, and stay healthy!

## Welcome, Superintendent Bahr!



KRESTIN BAHR  
Superintendent Select

The Peninsula School District Board of Directors named Krestin Bahr as the district's next leader after an extensive superintendent search process led by consultant firm Northwest Leadership Associates.

Preliminary interviews were held with five semi-finalists on March 13, and day-long second interviews with various staff groups and the community were held with two finalist candidates, including Bahr, on March 16 and 17.

The importance of moving education forward strategically and innovatively was a common theme in district staff, family, and community member feedback.

Peninsula School Board President David Olson said, "The board has spent several months reviewing all stakeholder input from various surveys and extensively researched each candidate in preparing for this monumental decision."

Olson said, "We ultimately chose the candidate with a proven track record of transformative and inspiring leadership, leading to greater outcomes for students

and growth opportunities for staff – and who will take the district to the next level."

Bahr, who is the current superintendent of the Eatonville School District, is excited to become Peninsula School District's next leader.

"I look forward to sharing my passionate advocacy of all students and their success with everyone in the Peninsula School District," Bahr said. "I am truly honored and humbled to be your next superintendent."

Current superintendent, Dr. Art Jarvis, will retire from the district on June 30, 2021. Bahr will officially assume the job on July 1, 2021.

Information about the superintendent search process can be found at [psd401.net/suptsearch](https://psd401.net/suptsearch).

# School Construction Updates

Here are some of the latest updates on PSD's elementary school construction sites, funded by the voter-approved 2019 capital bond. Pioneer Elementary opened in January 2021, and the three elementary schools below are scheduled to open during fall 2021.

## Artondale Elementary School Replacement and Expansion

Bond-Approved Opening: Fall 2021  
Projected Opening: Fall 2021

A new building is being constructed on the school's existing upper playfield, allowing students and staff to remain in the old school until the new building opens. After the new school is opened, the old building will be demolished and the new playfield will be constructed.



## Evergreen Elementary School Replacement and Expansion

Bond-Approved Opening: Fall 2022  
Projected Opening: Fall 2021

A new school is being constructed adjacent to the existing school. After construction is complete, the old building will be demolished and the existing gym will remain for district and community use.



## Swift Water Elementary New School

Bond-Approved Opening: Fall 2021  
Projected Opening: Fall 2021

Swift Water Elementary is a new school located on Harbor Hill Drive across from the YMCA. The district purchased this parcel of land in 2013 in anticipation of the increased number of students residing in the growing Gig Harbor North area.



Find more information about PSD's school construction projects at [psd401.net/capitalprojects](https://psd401.net/capitalprojects).



# Career and Technical Education in Peninsula Schools

## Every Student: A Dream and a Plan

by Erin O'Neill, Executive Director of College, Career, and Life Readiness

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a critical component of a student's middle and high school journey. That is why Peninsula



School District offers CTE courses that prepare students for both college and careers by enabling exploration of interests, development of skills, and academic growth. Participating in CTE courses helps students not only discover aspirations, but also develop a plan to reach those aspirations.

CTE courses build on core academic standards and 21st century skills to make learning meaningful and relevant, providing opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills authentically.

These courses reinforce our students' ability to lead; use critical, creative, and design thinking skills; solve problems;

work in teams; oversee projects; be responsible; and strengthen and advance technical skills.

In our programs, we focus on having expert teachers and career-connected learning opportunities. We offer college credit free of charge to students in several of our programs, plus training toward industry certifications.

To be college-ready, a student must possess a combination of skills, knowledge, and habits of mind necessary to fully participate in and complete college-level courses. A career-ready person effectively navigates pathways that connect education and employment to achieve a fulfilling, financially secure, and successful career.

Our goal is that by participating in CTE courses, students will be able to enter college or the workforce fully prepared for success.

In the next few pages, you will read about a few of the exemplary CTE programs in the Peninsula School District.

## Local Industry Key to Advising CTE Programs

A Career and Technical Education (CTE) general advisory council consisting of industry partners, community members, and educators plays an important role in developing the overall direction of CTE programming within PSD.

Each CTE pathway, such as Health Sciences and Skilled Trades, also has an advisory council. The pathway advisories ensure we are teaching students meaningful and updated skills and knowledge.

Our advisory partners help advance career-connected learning by participating as guest speakers and mentors to students; offering job-shadow or internship opportunities; leading tours of their workplaces; providing scholarships; and more.

"The Career and Technical Education program is the best kept secret of PSD," said Hayley Nichols, CEO of Allofus and chair of PSD's CTE General Advisory. "The programming in CTE gives our students real world experience that will help them throughout their lives."



Interested in learning more about CTE programs?  
Contact your child's school counselor.

If you are interested in volunteering with either the CTE General Advisory Council or a pathway advisory, please contact Erin O'Neill at [oneille@psd401.net](mailto:oneille@psd401.net).

## Career and Technical Education Pathways



Agriculture and  
Environmental Science



Business and  
Marketing



Health Sciences



Human Services,  
Education, and  
Personal Health



Skilled Trades  
and Art Science



STEM

# Industry Certifications Earned Through Skilled Trades

CTE teacher Eric Morton has been an integral part of initiating, building, and teaching the Skilled Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Program located at Peninsula High School. Morton and paraeducator Nancy Atwood lead students in daily lessons, weekly math assignments, and modules in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, masonry, and welding.

The Skilled Trades program gives senior students experience in real life working conditions. Students take field trips to apprenticeship training centers, go on active job-site tours with industry partners, and hear from guest speakers representing trades and construction companies.

Students gain practical skills and hands-on experience by using industry standard equipment such as virtual and real welders, circular and miter saws, and common jobsite power and hand tools.

One benefit of participating in the program is the opportunity to earn industry certifications, including OSHA 10, Forklift Operator, Scissor Lift Operator, and Roadside Flagger. With an industry certification, students are more likely to obtain an apprenticeship than a high school graduate without a certification. Students can also earn over 12 college credits from local technical colleges.

"This class exposes students to a wide variety of career paths that help them determine if a specific goal is correct for them or not," Morton said. "Industry certifications set our students apart from other high school grads, giving them a leg up when



Peninsula High School student Jade H. works on a project in class.

applying to future schools, apprenticeships, or jobs," Morton said.

Industry partners and community members are vital to the success of the program.

"The amount of support the Skilled Trades program has received from local construction companies has been extremely positive," Morton said. "The Gig Harbor Rotary Club has been a key community partner in this program, specifically Mr. Tom Borgen, as well as Lakeside Industries, Canon Construction, and others."

## NNDCC Prepares Future Leaders

Supported through Career and Technical Education, the Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) program will start in fall 2021 and serve all high school students from across the district.

The NNDCC program provides the same curriculum, training, and competition opportunities for students as the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) program. All JROTC programs currently have waitlists, so Peninsula School District applied to host an NNDCC site in an effort to provide this

pathway option for students.

School Board Director Natalie Wimberley has been a key member of the team that has worked to bring the NNDCC program to the Peninsula School District.

"I am absolutely thrilled to have the opportunity to begin a Cadet Corps program in Peninsula Schools and am thankful for the team of staff and volunteers working together to this end over the past several years," Wimberley said. "This inclusive program engages students of all abilities, defying racial, cultural, and socio-economic barriers. Our students will learn invaluable leadership skills, build confidence, and develop deep and meaningful friendships, while participating in activities that prioritize physical health, self-discipline, patriotism, and civic engagement."

Lieutenant Commander Darrell Hood has been hired to lead the program. Commander Hood is a retired officer with over 36 years of experience in air traffic control, air operations, and airfield management. In his many roles, he has been a leader, mentor, and learner.



Shelton School District cadets receive inspection.

Contact Commander Hood at [hoodd@psd401.net](mailto:hoodd@psd401.net) to learn more.





## Middle School CTE Courses Inspire Future Learning

Peninsula School District's Career and Technical Education programs currently begin at the middle school level. Designed as introductory courses, these classes begin to give students experiences that allow them to learn and have a clearer direction for their high school and post high school careers.

In the future, our hope is to expand certain programs to students in younger grades throughout our district.

### 2020-2021 Middle School CTE Courses

- Intro to Forensics
- Intro to Manufacturing
- Intro to Engineering Design
- Intro to Aerospace
- Intro to Computer-Aided Design
- Multimedia
- Computer Science for Innovators and Makers
- App Creators
- Medical Detectives

## Students Take the Pulse of Healthcare Professions



Students in the 2019 summer Health Sciences internship receive hands-on training.  
*Note: Picture taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

An array of Health Sciences courses offered at Gig Harbor High School and Peninsula High School provide pathways for students to research and solve problems, explore career paths, and engage with important healthcare topics.

Courses such as Principles of Biomedical Sciences, Human Body Systems, Medical Interventions, Biomedical Innovation, Medical Terminology, and Sports Medicine present opportunities for experiential learning and problem solving.

Certain courses are open to all students, while others are only for specific grade levels.

Jennifer Bookman (GHHS) and Brad Collins (PHS) are part of their schools' respective healthcare pathway program teaching teams.

Collins shared the joy of witnessing students become passionate and skilled in science, and watching students' interests bloom in a student-centered, hands-on environment.

"Students often say they want to go into a particular profession without really understanding what that profession is like," Collins said. "Students in our program get to experience activities in those professions and get a better sense of whether or not they want to pursue them."

Students can earn college credit in Health Sciences courses. Courses offer experiences with specialized equipment such as a SECTRA three-dimensional virtual dissection table, manikins, DNA technology, and medical software. Students also learn from guest speakers, gaining insight into numerous healthcare careers.

"Our courses focus on collaboration, communication, research, scientific inquiry, problem solving, and engineering design, as well as career exploration," Bookman said. "These skills and habits of mind have been identified by the health sciences industry as critical needs for someone entering a medical or research career, but these skills also prepare our students for independence in college and any career."



### Did You Know?

Over 500 students enrolled in Health Sciences this school year.

# Students Today, Teachers Tomorrow



Teacher Academy instructor Rebecca Wenrich discusses a project with her students.

**T**eacher Academy is a high school course open to juniors and seniors across Peninsula School District, offering a valuable opportunity for students who desire to enter the field of teaching or pursue a profession working with kids.

Through project-based learning, individual learning, and collaboration, the course provides a comprehensive overview of education. The course extends beyond lesson planning to include elements of culture, identity, psychology of learning, interacting, and behavior as well as equity and social justice practices. Students receive an English and CTE course credit, and can also obtain college credit.

Longtime educator and Gig Harbor High School (GHHS) course instructor Rebecca Wenrich has been part of Teacher Academy since its inception.

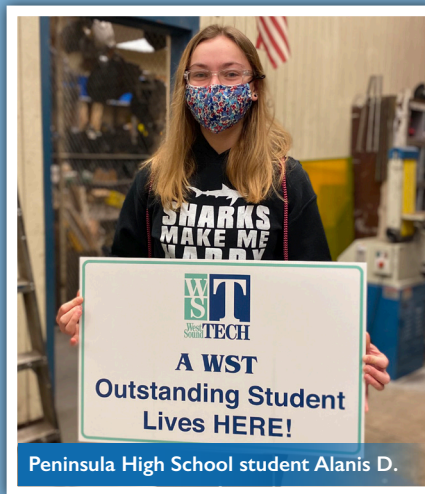
"In my 25 years of teaching, it's one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had," Wenrich said. "Using our teaching and learning perspectives, it

has pushed me to be a better teacher — to check myself and ensure I'm doing things known to be good practices and equitable for all kids."

Wenrich points to the sense of engagement and community developed among Teacher Academy students, opportunities for professional experience with district staff and community member guest speakers, and observational teaching practicums as a few of the course highlights.

The course began during the 2017-18 school year and has seen increasing enrollment each year. Hosted currently at GHHS, the district provides transportation for students from Peninsula High School or Henderson Bay High School who participate.

"It's a phenomenal opportunity for students to explore their identities and attach them to learning opportunities and social impact," Wenrich said. "Whether they become teachers or not, they're the changemakers of tomorrow."



Peninsula High School student Alanis D.

## West Sound Tech Skills Center

**S**pecialized CTE equipment can be expensive for districts to purchase and maintain, so regional skills centers, like West Sound Tech Skills (WST) in Bremerton, offer programs for students who attend school in neighboring districts.

PSD students can attend half-day CTE programs at WST to obtain high school academic credit, college credit, industry certifications, career-connected learning, and college entrance requirements.

For example, students intending to go into the medical field may take the WST Professional Medical Careers program and earn general academic credits in health, lab science, and English; earn up to 37 college credits; and earn a variety of certifications related to industry certification. Students interested in nursing can complete their certified nursing assistant (CNA) certificates.

WST Director Shani Watkins said, "WST programs complement students' experiences at Peninsula School District, support students' program of study, and fully support students' post-secondary aspirations."



For a full listing of Peninsula School District CTE courses, visit us online at:  
[psd401.net/CollegeCareerLifeReadiness](https://psd401.net/CollegeCareerLifeReadiness).

For more information about West Sound Tech, visit  
[www.westsoundtech.org](https://www.westsoundtech.org).



## Find Your Place in Peninsula School District

PSD will continue to follow local and state health and safety guidance as we plan for the 2021-2022 school year, which includes:



Find more information about PSD's plans for the 2021-2022 school year at [psd401.net](http://psd401.net).



### PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Compass*

#### Board of Directors

David Olson | Lori Glover  
Deborah Krishnadasan | Chuck West  
Natalie Wimberley

#### Superintendent

Dr. Art Jarvis

The Compass is produced by  
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The graphic features a central illustration of several hands of different colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) reaching out towards the center. To the right of the hands, the text 'Kindergarten REGISTRATION' is displayed in a large, serif font. Below this, a blue button with white text says 'Online Enrollment Now Open!'. At the bottom right, the Peninsula School District logo is shown.

**W**elcome, Kindergarteners! Online Kindergarten registration for the 2021-2022 school year is now open in the Peninsula School District.

PSD is planning to offer in-person and virtual full-day Kindergarten, 5 days a week at all elementary schools in the fall. Registering your child early offers the best opportunity to receive communication about summertime school events and to receive Kindergarten specific information.

To register, you will need to upload the following documents or turn them in to your child's school: proof of residency, like a utility bill; student birth certificate; and student immunization records. In order to enroll your child for Kindergarten, they must be 5 years old by August 31.

**Go to [psd401.net/registration](http://psd401.net/registration) to begin the online process.**