



## Pioneer Elementary School is the first magnet school in the Peninsula School District

A magnet school draws students from all neighborhoods in a specific area, such as a school district. Magnet schools are generally organized around a theme and Pioneer's theme is STEAM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. Students at Pioneer receive an elementary education with emphasis placed on STEAM concepts. Enrollment is open to all students in PSD.

### Mission

At Pioneer, our learning environment exists beyond the classroom walls in socially embedded communities that promote choice and self-advocacy. Through personalized inquiry based projects and authentic experiences, learners will collaborate with multi-aged peers to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and mindsets needed to identify and solve our most pressing global issues.

### Core Principles

- **Equity** - Access to opportunity
- **Authentic Learning** - Solving real-world problems
- **Collaboration** - Contributing as a community
- **Expanding Success** - Growth for the whole child
- **Learner Agency** - Choice and voice in how one learns best

### Mascot, Logo, and Colors

Pathfinders was selected as the mascot in spring 2020 to reflect the mission at Pioneer. Through community input, two wonderful women collaborated to create a vision of purpose to capture a visual representation of Pioneer's goals. It was decided that a nautical compass would both reflect the marine culture and a symbol of direction in pursuing goals.

The logo symbol was designed by Gig Harbor High School Art teacher Tate Lenkaitis. Laying tribute to the original building, which was purchased from the Boys & Girls Club, Pioneer stuck with the timeless connection of teal, goldenrod, and green as school colors.

Learn more about Pioneer at [pie.psd401.net](http://pie.psd401.net) and [psd401.net/PIEBuild](http://psd401.net/PIEBuild)



Wednesday • February 24, 2021 • 11 AM

# Pioneer Elementary School Ribbon-Cutting and Official Opening

Pioneer Elementary School  
8502 Skansie Ave  
Gig Harbor, WA 98332



Render Image Credit: TCF Architecture



# Event Program

## Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Art Jarvis,  
Superintendent

## School Board Remarks

David Olson,  
Board President

## Capital Projects Remarks

Patrick Gillespie,  
Director of Facilities

## Principal Remarks

Stephanie Strader,  
Pioneer Elementary School Principal

## Live Stream Details

This is a limited capacity, invite-only ceremony due to COVID-19 guidelines and precautions.

The ceremony is streamed live at [psd401.net](https://psd401.net) and on the PSD YouTube channel. A recording of the live stream will also be available following the event.



# Special Acknowledgments

## Architect

**TCF Architecture**

## General Contractor

**FORMA Construction**

## Project Management

**Greene Gasaway**

## City of Gig Harbor

A big thank you to the City of Gig Harbor Planning Department.

## Boys & Girls Club of South Puget Sound

Thank you to the Boys & Girls Club of South Puget Sound for partnering to sell the Cheney Family Branch building to PSD.

## Stand Up for Peninsula Schools (SUP)

SUP is a non-profit organization that promotes local funding for PSD schools and communicates the funding impacts on schools to the community.

## School Board

- David Olson, President
- Lori Glover, Vice President
- Deborah Krishnadasan, Director
- Chuck West, Director
- Natalie Wimberley, Director

## Former Board Members

- Leslie Harbaugh
- Marcia Harris

## District Administration

- Dr. Art Jarvis, Superintendent
- John Hellwich, Asst. Supt.
- Patrick Gillespie, Director of Facilities
- Vicki Smith, Capital Projects Coordinator

## Pioneer Core Team

- Stephanie Strader, Principal
- Betsy Roberson, Teacher
- Cheryl Mikkelsen, Teacher
- Rachel Paxton, Teacher
- Jen Wisner, Teacher
- Shea Sullivan, Counselor
- Anna Martin, Office Manager

**Thank you, PSD voters**, for approving the 2019 bond and making this school a reality for our community.

The 2019 bond provides quality, flexible spaces for learning and future growth for PSD's schools. Thank you for your support! See more at [psd401.net/capitalprojects](https://psd401.net/capitalprojects).



# Site, Building, and Construction Highlights

On January 19, 2021 the new Pioneer Elementary School opened as the ninth elementary school in the Peninsula School District. The school is located on Skansie Avenue at the former site of the Boys & Girls Club building. The Peninsula School District purchased the building from the Boys & Girls Club in June 2019 with the vision to add on to the original building and create a full-size elementary school for the district.

**Less Than  
2 Years**

Pioneer opened to students on Jan. 19, 2021, less than two years after the bond passage on Feb. 12, 2019. This opening was more than a year and a half ahead of schedule, with a fall 2022 opening date originally promised in the bond.

**9<sup>th</sup>  
Elementary**

Pioneer is the ninth elementary school to open in the district. The 2019 bond issue included funding for the construction of another new elementary school community on Harbor Hill Drive, and come fall 2021 the district will have 10 elementary schools as part of 17 schools in total.

**34 Years  
Since Last  
Added Elementary**

Pioneer became the first new elementary school to be added to the district in 34 years. The last new, added school at the elementary level was Voyager Elementary School, which opened in 1987.

**73,683  
Square Feet**

The completed Pioneer facility is 73,683 square feet. The Boys & Girls Club facility was 33,992 square feet with 39,691 square feet added during construction. The construction of Pioneer marked the first time PSD has converted an already existing non-school building into a school facility.

**\$24.997  
Million**

The construction contract in the amount of \$24.997 million was awarded to FORMA Construction company in December 2019. In total, the 2019 bond provided \$198.55 million for all identified district capital projects in the bond.

**30  
Classrooms**

The facility has 30 classrooms for student learning, including a Makerspace Exploratorium that emphasizes communal, hands-on learning. The school also features several large and small flex learning spaces in hallway common areas.

**2  
Stories**

The facility is the first two-story elementary school in the district. Iconic high-ceiling lights hang above the main entrance stairwell and can be seen from Skansie Avenue.

**Expanded  
PSD Footprint**

Located on Skansie Avenue, the Pioneer property parcel merges together with the Henderson Bay High School, Discovery Elementary School, and Gig Harbor High School parcels to form one large property parcel, expanding the district-owned property footprint in the area.

**43 staff  
297 students**

For the school's inaugural 2020-2021 school year, 28 certificated staff and 15 classified staff compose Pioneer's total staff count of 43. There are 297 students attending the school in its first school year spanning grades K-4, with 5th grade joining next school year in fall 2021.