





High schools unite for post-high school planning lessons

We spend a lot of our time focused on the 13+ years our students spend within our schools and programs, and we also work to help our students envision the life waiting for them after high school as well.

Washington State requires all graduates to complete a [“High School and Beyond Plan”](#) (HSBP). The HSBP is one tool to help students achieve the “fulfilling and productive life” envisioned in The

Counselors, families, advisory teachers, high school and beyond coordinators and students partner together to help build a cohesive, customized plan for each student. The plan is revisited regularly, and then spring of senior year, counselors check off this graduation requirement.

Discover and develop

“I’m more open about what I want to do with my future,” one ninth grade student in Kati Berreth’s advisory class said during a recent lesson, where students explored careers and “hearted,” or bookmarked, them for future reference. “The lessons are helping me understand what I want to do.”

That particular lesson, taught in November 2021, focused on exploring the career planner module within the HSBP, where students can explore career strands, for example “Health” or “Law.” Each career page shows information on training, skills needed, and potential income.

“I’ve had this career bookmarked since the sixth grade,” another student said. “I knew I wanted to do something in the medical field.”

Other careers being explored around the room included working with animals, real estate, registered nurse and contractor/builder.

Students had already taken an interest inventory in a previous lesson, which helped them identify where their skills and work interests might lie.

“My jobs are all completely different and I want to do all of them equally!” one student said.



Thanks to past community support,

2 2

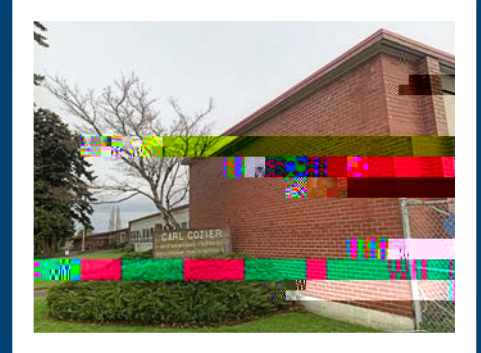


What is the impact?

If voters approve this bond, the rate per \$1,000 assessed value will go from \$3.47 in 2022 to \$3.72 in 2023 and 2024. This means the combined tax rate for schools (levies and bonds) will increase by an estimated \$16.90 per month in 2023 (compared with 2022) for a median homeowner* in Bellingham.

- 2018 ACTUAL AND LEVY RATE
- PROJECTED BOND AND LEVY RATE (APPROX.)**

2018 ACTUAL	2019 ACTUAL	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
\$4.54	\$3.57	\$3.61	\$3.48	\$3.47	\$3.72	\$3.72



■ Carl Cozier Elementary School

How can I vote?

Voters within Bellingham Public Schools' attendance area will receive a ballot in the mail in January 2022 to vote on this school bond. Ballots must be mailed and postmarked or returned to the drop-box at the Whatcom County Courthouse South Parking lot, 201 Grand Avenue by 8 p.m. Feb. 8, 2022.

Senior Citizens Exemption Information

Qualifying senior citizens and persons with disabilities may be exempt from paying school taxes. For more information, please call the County 509.922.1111 or visit whatcomcounty.us/265/Property-Tax-Exemption



Melanie Flink, physical education specialist at Happy Valley Elementary School and elementary PE department chair has been named the 2021 Physical Education Teacher of the Year in Washington state. Sponsored by the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) Washington, she was presented the state award in October.

Flink has taught in Bellingham for 8 years and has become a leader in physical education in the state and nationally and is a vibrant collaborator among her peers.

Nic Castona, Parkview Elementary PE specialist, is one of her PE colleagues who recommended her for the SHAPE award. He shared that he is “amazed at the intentionality and passion she brings to her job” and appreciates how much she

is willing to share and collaborate with other teachers.

“Her positive attitude and outstanding work has set the bar high for P.E. teachers in our district and **she inspires those around her to grow and improve their practice as well.**”

Another colleague Tonian Gray, PE specialist at Silver Beach, also described being inspired by Flink. “She always keeps us up to date on the latest best practices and encourages us to support one another by doing that very thing for all of us. **She finds the spark in each of us and lights the fire within us to be better.**”

In response to her SHAPE teacher of the year award, Flink shared how this award reflects on more than just her, and she continues to advocate for eC -0.01 Tc 0 Tw7.tn9.2 (o)4.5 (r) -0.01

Styer is one of 15 computer science (CS) teachers from across the nation chosen for this one-year fellowship to help build a more inclusive vision of computer science as a subject accessible to all students. During the year-long fellowship, the 15 fellows will meet regularly on Zoom and in person. Styer will write blog posts, collaborate on workshops and lessons, and present through videos and at conferences.

Styer became interested in applying for the CSTA fellowship after noticing what many other computer science instructors see: that students don’t always perceive computer science as “for someone like me.” Whether that’s due to their race, gender, neurodiversity or some other factor, Styer wants to combat the stereotype of CS and improve access for all students.

“I noticed I didn’t have diversity in my classes,” Styer said. “I had thought—I’m

Is there a specific project in the bond that you are appreciative of or think the community should know more about?

CAMILLE: I think that might be the

