Welcome to the new Shorewood High School

Shorewood High School’s 1,500 students walked into their new, three-story building on Sept. 4 with plenty of oohs and ahhs. The opening of the new Shorewood was the culmination of nearly a decade of planning for the Shoreline School District.

Twice district voters generously approved bond measures to replace Shorecrest and Shorewood—first in 2006 for the design and the second in 2010 for construction.

The first thing visitors see when they enter Shorewood is the commons, an expansive space that will be the heart of the school, said Principal Bill Dunbar. Many areas connect to the commons, including the gymnasium, theater, food service, library and career center.

It is, as Dunbar says, “a place to see and be seen” for students.

Just outside the commons is the courtyard, with views to the south and a grassy space and benches. The student store has a window onto the courtyard to serve food and drinks. “Our hope is that with this courtyard our students will want to use this as a place to socialize before school, during lunch and after school,” Dunbar said.

From an educational perspective, Dunbar says the new Shorewood is all about safety and flexibility.

The old Shorewood, created in the mid-1970s by combining the former Ronald Elementary and Butler Junior High, stretched for five blocks and was difficult to supervise.

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Superintendent’s Message:

Remembering the first opening of Shorewood

Dear Shoreline Schools Community,

Forty years ago this month, construction of the first Shorewood High School began and simultaneously, I began my teaching career in the Shoreline Schools. The recent opening of the rebuilt Shorewood High School has provided a unique opportunity for me to reflect upon this exceptional educational community and the history of the T-Birds.

As part of the planning team for the original high school’s academic and activity programs, I was incredibly proud when Shorewood opened its doors in the fall of 1975.

Although the sprawling campus was constructed by incorporating Ronald Elementary (built in 1951) and Butler Junior High (built in 1953), the school was filled with excitement, energy and excellence. Working with the students and staff to create the culture and traditions that have become Shorewood was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

This month, the brand new Shorewood High School opened its doors and the pride I felt was no less than the first time it opened in 1975. In the seven years since our community approved the bond measure for the Shorewood design, it has taken a tremendous amount of work on the part of staff, community members and professionals to make the new facility a reality. I wish everyone involved could have seen the students enjoying their new home that first day.

It is clear to me as well that the new school and its current student body will honor and embrace the culture, traditions and memories of all the students and families who have come before and called Shorewood their own.

The new Shorewood High School is a reflection of this community’s commitment to excellence in education.

Sue Walker, right, and Vicki Gorman, physical education teacher and athletic director, were members of the first Shorewood teaching staff when the school opened in 1975.

We hope you will join us for the dedication and tours of the new school facility from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12. Being part of this celebration is another once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

Sincerely,

Sue Walker

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter

The Shoreline School District is on Facebook and Twitter. You can link to our Facebook page or Twitter feed (@ShorelineSD) directly from the District Web site www.shorelineschools.org. Look for the Facebook and Twitter logos at the top of our home page.

CALLING FOR KIDS

The phones will ring Sunday, November 3rd, to raise money for the Shoreline Public Schools. Please pick up your phone and support our kids!

or

Donate Now at:
(206) 393-4107 or www.shorelinefoundation.org
Thank you for your support!

Shoreline Public Schools Foundation
Promoting learning Supporting students
Shorewood offers flexible spaces for learning

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The new building is designed with safety first in mind, including more than 40 security cameras and the ability to automatically lock the exterior doors with the push of a button in an emergency. The offices of the principals and assistant principals are located on different floors to allow for ease of supervision.

The flexibility of the building is seen throughout, starting in the commons, a multipurpose space that can be used not only as a cafeteria, but for school and community events and as a lobby for the theater and concession area for the gymnasium. The library, with walls of windows, features a variety of spaces depending on student needs.

The 77 standard classrooms and 10 science labs on three floors are structured to be equally flexible, with interactive projectors and bulletin boards that can be moved around the room depending on the teacher’s needs.

Practical design is seen throughout.

Cabinet doors in science classrooms can also be used as whiteboards to identify what’s inside and surface materials along the walls are designed for easy replacement under the wear and tear of student use.

The new home of the Thunderbirds includes a gymnasium with seating on three sides, an auxiliary gymnasium and aerobics/fitness and weight rooms that look out on the courtyard.

“Overall, it has been a great experience,” said Malik Drammeh, Shorewood’s ASB president. “The culture hasn’t really been set yet, so I think that’s going to be a main job for Shorewood leadership. The technology that is incorporated throughout is definitely far more advanced than anything we’ve had prior, which makes events such as assemblies higher quality.”

“We are very excited to open the school year in our new building and incredibly grateful to the community for making this possible,” Principal Dunbar said. “With the opening of the new building we are looking forward to the next phase with parking, athletic fields and tennis courts.”

Shorecrest will open its new academic building in February 2014.

Students enjoy a break between classes in the spacious commons of the new Shorewood.

Video teacher Marty Ballew demonstrates the capabilities of the interactive projectors in classrooms at the new Shorewood. Here he is displaying a student video.

The fitness room at Shorewood has plenty of treadmills and views out to the courtyard.
Standing in the south courtyard of the new Shorewood High School on a bright, sunny summer day, Lorne McConachie smiles broadly and spreads his arms.

“We want this to be a place of exuberance,” said McConachie of Seattle’s Bassetti Architects and the principal designer of the new Shorewood campus.

The opening of the new Shorewood is the culmination of four years of work for McConachie and his design team from Bassetti, a challenging project given the compact size of the campus in the center of Shoreline.

First-time visitors to the campus will be struck by windows—they are seemingly everywhere in the new Shorewood, whether in the commons, library or classrooms.

“We know that kids do better in classrooms that allow for plenty of natural light,” said McConachie, whose firm has designed schools throughout the region.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the new Shorewood library, which includes a long wall of windows looking out into the courtyard, and the commons, a lofted, expansive space that is the hub of the building.

The three story classroom wings are equally light-filled, with some classrooms enjoying views west to the Olympics and south to Mount Rainier.

Another challenge the architects faced was to incorporate the historic Ronald School into the modern design. The Ronald building was built in 1912 and its façade is a registered city landmark. So to make Ronald a working school again, it had to be seismically reinforced from the inside with new concrete shear walls. The windows were replaced with wooden, double-hung versions of the originals, and the doors were replaced with historical replicas as well.

“This building is a tribute to 100 years of education in north King County and speaks to that past,” McConachie said.

Inside, the Ronald building is divided into two, two-story classrooms, one for orchestra and choir and the other a “black box” theater for drama and other performances.

The hall leading into the Ronald building has exposed original brick and former window spaces have become trophy cases.

“We knew how important this building was to the entire Shoreline community, and we believe we have honored its history while at the same time given it new life,” McConachie said.

One of the goals set forth by the School Board was an environmentally responsible, sustainable campus, and one of the unique, but hidden features of the site includes more than 20 deep wells to handle surface water. The wells are narrow shafts that filter and clean the water before sending it deep underground to recharge the aquifer.

Standing at the front door of the new Shorewood, McConachie says he is proud how the community came together to create the new school.

“Shoreline has done such a good job making this a welcoming place for generations to come,” McConachie said, “by returning the Ronald building to school use and making the new school a focal point in the town center.”
Five Shoreline District schools have new principals for 2013-14.

**Sue McPeak** is principal of Ridgecrest Elementary. Sue has been a principal in the Issaquah School District since 2000, first at Clark Elementary and most recently at Challenger Elementary since 2009. Her new position marks a return to Shoreline for Sue. She taught at Briarcrest Elementary in Shoreline from 1992 to 2000 and at North City from 1984 to 1991.

Sue’s father, the late Bud Hansen, was a teacher, principal and administrator in Shoreline from 1955 to 1985. He served as principal at Hamlin Park, Cedarbrook and Sunset before retiring as director of elementary education.

Ann Torres is principal of Parkwood Elementary.

Ann has served as assistant principal of Shorewood High School since 2008, and was dean of students and administrative intern at Shorewood prior to that. She served as principal for the District’s secondary summer school program from 2008 to 2010.

Ann was an English and Social Studies teacher at Shorewood from 2001-07, serving as Social Studies chairperson for three years.

For **Andrew Lohman**, his selection as Echo Lake principal also marks a return to Shoreline Schools, having previously taught 5th grade at Highland Terrace from 2007 to 2012 and at Sunset from 2004 to 2007. He was also an administrative intern at Highland Terrace during the 2011-12 school year.

This past year he served as an assistant principal at Fernwood and Crystal Springs Elementary Schools in the Northshore School District.

Andrew’s mother, Charlotte Lohman, taught for many years at Echo Lake, and his wife, Jennifer Lohman, taught at Echo Lake and Sunset as well.

In other principal changes, **Michelle Carroll** is now principal at Syre Elementary, moving from Echo Lake, and **David Tadlock** is principal at Meridian Park, moving from Syre. **Casey Campbell** is the new assistant principal at Kellogg Middle School and **Nyla Fritz** is the new assistant principal at Einstein Middle School.

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**District students perform well on state tests**

This chart shows Shoreline School District students achieving significantly higher scores across the board than the state average on the spring 2013 state assessment tests, including high school End of Course (EOC) exams.

Each year the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) publishes an online “Report Card” for each school and school district in Washington state. The Report Card lists the results of state testing, student demographics, teacher information and financial data. Look for the link to the OSPI District Report Card on our home page at shorelineschools.org.

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* Including the scores of students who passed in a previous administration
** All grades
Hooray for Hollywood! Movie filmed at Shorecrest

Shorecrest was the setting for scenes from the film “Laggies” as the school hosted noted actress Keira Knightley during a 12-hour day in June. Shoreline Schools was contacted by a location scout in May, looking for an older high school setting with hallways lined by lockers and a counseling office area. “Laggies,” directed by Seattleite Lynn Shelton, stars Knightley as a perpetual adolescent who starts hanging out with a high school girl played by Chloe Grace Moretz.

Shorecrest was visited three times, including twice by the director, prior to the filming to scout the locations. Assistant Principal Kristi Queen’s office was selected for the scene with the counselor, as was an adjacent courtyard for a scene involving a cell phone call. A student locker in the school’s “A Hall” was selected for another scene.

Hollywood doesn’t travel light. A cadre of trailers to be used for dressing rooms and trucks filled with equipment parked in the school’s south parking lot beginning Friday afternoon in preparation for the Sunday filming. The total crew numbered about 100 people, as Shorecrest was briefly transformed into the “Soundview High School Loggers” for the day.

Shelton and her casting directors welcomed 11 Shorecrest students and two teachers as extras, with everyone required to be there at 6 a.m. Much of the crew had arrived at the school by 5 a.m. to set up the scenes. The students were told to dress as they might for school, but to bring along several outfits from which the costume director would choose. As extras, the students and teachers walked up and down the hall as background to the actual scene in the counseling office, courtyard or by the lockers. Some carried books, or wore their backpacks, much like during a regular school day, but with bright lights, cameras and crew members all around.

Each scene was rehearsed and filmed several times. A few students from Shorecrest’s video production classes were also able to get a behind-the-scenes view of how movies are filmed, watching on monitors what the cameras saw. “Laggies” is expected to be released next year.