Shorecrest moves into new main building

Shorecrest High School’s new main academic building opened with fanfare on Feb. 24. The three-story structure features an expansive commons area, library and classrooms filled with natural light and views to the east of the Cascades. The school’s gymnasium and performing arts center opened in earlier phases. This spring the old school building will be demolished to make room for more parking, a plaza and landscaping. A community open house and school dedication is planned for September.

Shorecrest students at lunch in the spacious Commons.

The school’s mission statement on the wall alongside the Otis Stair.

Shorecrest students enjoying their new school.
Superintendent’s Message:  
A fond farewell from Sue Walker

Dear Shoreline Schools Community,

It is difficult to imagine that this will be my last Flagship message to our community. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as superintendent of the Shoreline Schools the past eight years. Working together as an educational community, we have achieved significant results for the students and families of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. I am incredibly proud of our collective accomplishments.

The Shoreline Schools faced significant challenges in 2006. The School Board and District leadership needed to bring fiscal stability to the District, while preserving academic and extracurricular programs, as well as our strong model of classroom support.

With the help of skilled and experienced financial leadership, Shoreline has re-established solid reserves, created financial systems to respond to changing resources, negotiated sustainable collective bargaining agreements that are fair and equitable, celebrated six annual financial and program audits without findings and restored bond ratings to their high levels of the past.

By all measures, Shoreline has rebuilt a strong financial organization. In order to achieve these goals, some very difficult decisions had to be made and we are grateful for the support of our community through this process.

Our schools faced another significant challenge in 2010. Over the past few decades, the physical condition of our high schools had declined. An analysis of the facilities indicated that the time had come to modernize and replace both high school structures. But, the national and regional economy at the time was very weak and the commitment needed was long term, so timing was a concern.

Once again, our community’s support came through when it was needed most.

Voters passed the necessary bonds to build new high school facilities, and this year we opened the two new schools for students on both sides of the District. Shorecrest and Shorewood high schools are now safe, secure and sustainable environments, which will serve all students well for decades to come.

Reflecting on what we were able to accomplish together these past eight years, I believe that we should be most gratified by the fact that Shoreline Schools have retained their reputation for academic and program excellence.

Assisted by strong instructional leadership, our students, programs and staff have received numerous recognition and awards year after year. The consistency of achievement and celebrations throughout the District is truly amazing.

In any given year, it is impossible to predict which schools and programs will be singled out for recognition at the state and national level, but it is obvious that Shoreline continues to be regarded as a top-tier school district with an exceptional staff and high-achieving students. But in this area, our work is never done. Student achievement will always be our number one priority and there will always be room for improvement.

In recent years, K-12 schools have become increasingly dependent upon local funding. Approximately 30 percent of our annual spending is from local levies, grants and donations.

Our amazing PTA volunteers have provided an incredible number of hours in classrooms and fundraising efforts that improved the quality of education in all schools. Our Booster clubs provide important support to our athletic and activity programs. Our generous local philanthropic organizations donate resources and time to our students and schools.

Since 1992, the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation has awarded over $3 million in grants and funding for programs that support innovative teaching and learning for all students.

With the consistent passage of levies in 2006, 2010 and 2014, our community has provided stable financial resources that not only support classrooms and academics, but also sustain robust programs in student services, athletics, music, drama, arts, and extracurricular activities.

On every occasion, our communities have demonstrated their unwavering support for children and schools, but they cannot do it alone.

The state must do the same. It is inexcusable that Washington’s class size is ranked 47th in the nation. It is unacceptable that full-day kindergarten is not available to all children. Our students are diverse and complex, and more funding is needed to address the achievement gap and provide interventions that address individual student needs.

There are many challenges ahead for K-12 education in Washington State, but do not underestimate the wonderful things that are happening in our schools. Instruction in Shoreline has never been better and our students are performing at the highest levels.

As I retire and leave a career that began over 40 years ago, I am particularly grateful for the unconditional support this community has given its students, schools, staff and me.

Through good times and bad, the citizens of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park have renewed their commitment to our children and education in multiple ways.

Over time, the students, staff, and parents have evolved, but the culture that is “Shoreline” has remained the same. I have been fortunate, indeed, to be a part of this exceptional school community.

With sincere gratitude,

Sue Walker

Please Join Us

To honor Supt. Sue Walker on her retirement after 40 years of service to Shoreline Schools

Monday, May 19
4 to 6 p.m.
Shorewood High School Commons
17300 Fremont Ave. N.
Shoreline, WA
Rebecca Miner named as new Superintendent

The Shoreline School Board voted unanimously to name Rebecca Miner, current superintendent at White Pass School District, as Shoreline’s next superintendent beginning July 1.

“We feel strongly that Rebecca Miner is a great fit for Shoreline,” said Board President Mike Jacobs. “Her absolute passion for education and breadth of knowledge were evident throughout our interviews with her and at the open community forum. We look forward to welcoming her and her husband Timothy Buckley to our community.”

“I am honored to have the privilege to be joining the Shoreline School District,” Miner said. “My visits there and conversations with members of the community demonstrated the close-knit nature of the District. I look forward to having the opportunity to serve the board, staff, families and community members of Shoreline in the coming years as we build on your tradition of excellence.”

Miner is completing her third year as superintendent of the White Pass School District in Randle, Wash., near Mount Rainier. Her prior experience includes four years as assistant superintendent in the Washougal School District, where her primary focus was on teaching, learning and assessment. She served two years as special services administrator in the Vancouver Public Schools, Vancouver, Wash. Her building level experience includes one year as associate principal at Columbia River High School and three years as associate principal at McLoughlin Middle School in Vancouver.

As a teacher for nine years, she taught English, journalism and American Studies, and advised the student newspaper at Kelso High School. She taught social studies at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School and Spanish and Special Education at McLoughlin Middle School, both in Vancouver.

Miner earned her B.A. in English at Lake Forest College north of Chicago. She earned her Masters in Teaching at Willamette University, Salem, Ore. Her superintendent credential is from Washington State University, where she is now completing her doctorate in educational leadership. She was raised in Vancouver and graduated from Hudson’s Bay High School.

Lori Henry to be inducted into WIAA Hall of Fame

Shorewood grad now teaches at Kellogg

Lori Henry, physical education teacher at Kellogg Middle School and one of the most decorated athletes to graduate from the Shoreline School District, is one of six inductees for the Class of 2014 to the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Hall of Fame.

While playing soccer at Shorewood High School she was named First Team All-Wesco League (1983-84) and High School All America (1983). Lori also excelled in basketball, softball, and track and field for the T-Birds. She placed third in the 4A State Track and Field Meet in the 400 meters. Shorewood retired her soccer jersey in 2012.

After graduating from Shorewood in 1984, Lori continued her soccer dreams and was a two-time first-team All-American defender at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While there, she helped the undefeated Tar Heels win three NCAA titles.

In 1985, she became the youngest player to make the first United State Soccer Federation Women’s National Team. She was the captain for three years and the only member of the original 1985 squad still with the team in 1991 when the U.S. won the Women’s World Cup in China. She was also selected to Soccer America’s All-Decade Team in 1990. Lori played 39 games for the U.S. before retiring (1991).

Lori’s passion for soccer did not end with her retirement from the national team. She began her coaching career as an assistant at UNC-Greensboro, and later served four years as the first head women’s soccer coach at Ohio State, where she helped start the program.

Lori came back to her home state, earned a Master’s in Education from Seattle Pacific and became a teacher in the Shoreline School District (1999).

She taught at Einstein Middle School for five years before moving to Kellogg Middle School in 2004, where she currently teaches physical education and is the track and field coach.

Lori is also an assistant coach for the Shorecrest High School girls soccer team. She was selected as a Symetra/Seahawks Hero in the Classroom in 2012.

The Hall of Fame Class of 2014 will be inducted May 7 at a luncheon in Renton.
Vicki Gorman, Shoreline Teacher of the Year

Vicki Gorman, who has taught physical education at Shorewood High School since its opening in 1975, has been selected as the 2014 Shoreline Teacher of the Year.

She will be honored at a reception on May 12 at 6 p.m. in the Shoreline Center lobby. The community is invited. The District will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week from May 12 to 16 in honor of all certificated staff.

“Vicki is the heart and soul of Shorewood High School,” wrote her colleague in nominating her for the award. “Her dedication and commitment to our school is unparalleled.”

Vicki is head of the PE department, the cheer coach and the athletic director at Shorewood.

“Vicki is an exemplary teacher,” said Shorewood Principal Bill Dunbar. “When people say ‘Shorewood,’ they think of Vicki Gorman. She is the foundation of an excellent staff, and has led her department to consistently adapt and evolve the PE program with high standards for physical activity, skill development, fitness and growth. She is a person of the highest character who sets high standards and guides our young people in developing their character.”

In 2008, Vicki was one of the first physical education teachers in the State of Washington to become a National Board Certified Teacher. She has since become a mentor to many other teachers wishing to obtain their own National Board Certification and become a scorer for the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

Vicki is a University of Washington graduate and did her student teaching at Shoreline High School. After two years teaching in Kirkland, she joined the first staff at Shorewood when the school opened in 1975 and has been at the school ever since.

“Mrs. Gorman is my role model,” wrote one of the cheer captains in supporting her nomination. “She is one of the kindest, most genuine women I have ever met. She has truly changed me for the better by encouraging me to be my best self and by teaching me to be an effective leader. I am so happy to have her in my life and lucky to have met such an inspirational woman.”

The Teacher of the Year receives a professional development grant from the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation and is forwarded for State Teacher of the Year consideration.

Marc McCartney, Support Person of the Year

Marc McCartney, theater manager/technician and district moving coordinator, has been selected as the 2014 Shoreline Schools Support Person of the Year.

Marc was honored at a reception during Support Staff Appreciation Week in March.

“Marc is a man with an incredible work ethic,” his nomination read in part. “As a teacher, theater technician and recently the coordinator of the move into two new high schools, Marc sets a standard for both students and staff.”

Marc has worked for the District for more than 25 years and is a graduate of Shorewood High School. He has managed the Shorecrest theater for many years, now adding the new facility at Shorewood to his duties as well. He is also a teacher of theater lighting and set design.

“What most people do not see is the professional instruction given by Marc to our students who coordinate every light, curtain, microphone and need of our actors and musicians on stage. None of this would happen at this level of excellence if it weren’t for Marc’s teaching,” the nomination continued.

Over the past two years Marc has taken on the responsibility of coordinating the successful moves of both high school staffs into their new buildings.

“(We) can’t begin to express how many endless and late night hours Marc has given to staff, vendors, construction workers and central office personnel to make these massive moves a success.”

The Support Person of the Year award has been made annually since 1998 and is selected by a committee of staff and community members from nominations received from around the District. The recipient also receives a professional development grant from the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation.
Cascade K-8 honored as STEM leader

Cascade K-8 Community School in Shoreline is among seven schools that will serve as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) mentors to other schools in the state.

Known as Lighthouse schools, the seven were recently awarded $18,000 grants to be used to promote and develop STEM education, including technical assistance and advice for other middle schools and high schools that are creating their own STEM environments.

“Our students are participants in learning experiences that equip them with the skills needed to use STEM effectively, understanding how the world works,” said Trinh Pham, director of Cascade K-8.

“This includes three outdoor extended learning trips for our K-5 students, 6-8 students, and an intensive ‘passage to journey’ for our 8th grade students to explore deeper in the different areas of careers that they may be interested in pursuing.”

Cascade K-8 students help set their own expectations, partnering with community businesses and educational organizations through service learning.

“In everything we do, all subjects are brought to life through experiences such as pulling invasive species at the local Ronald Bog, retirement home visits, cultural exploration classes, mixed age classes, means of working with diverse groups of people with many abilities and disabilities,” Pham said.

Cascade K-8 has created a STE(A)M lab at the school, adding the Arts to the STEM curriculum. The lab has medium and small industry tools that students need to help them complete their tasks.

“We use STEM vocabulary in all our classrooms, using common STEM language with our staff and our students to ensure that we are all on the same page,” Pham said. “In addition, we also have parent education nights where we encourage and help our parents and community to explore STEM. We have invited other schools in the area to use our lab creating an atmosphere of cooperation. Our middle school students work in the lab to show our younger students about equipment safety and the great things they have and can create through STEM.”

“It’s a great honor to be chosen as a Lighthouse school,” said Randy Dorn, state superintendent. “It makes those schools leaders in STEM education. Other schools will look to the seven for guidance on how to successfully teach STEM.”

Foundation Spring Event raises $113,000

The Shoreline Public Schools Foundation’s 21st annual Spring Event was an unqualified success, raising more than $113,000.

Over 300 community members, business owners, parents and educators filled the room and demonstrated their support for the students and educators of the Shoreline School District.

Campbell Nelson Volkswagen Nissan kicked off the fundraising event with a $20,000 donation as a result of their “Test Drive 4 Kids” campaign. Pictured are Kurt Campbell with Foundation Development Director Cindy Pridemore and Co-President Jill Brady. This donation will be used to support the 2014 Shoreline School District Summer School program.

Since 1992, Shoreline Public Schools Foundation has donated more than $3 million to support student learning and enrichment. For more information on the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation, the programs it supports, or to donate, visit shorelinefoundation.org.

Thank You Voters!

The Shoreline School District thanks the voters of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park for their strong approval of the two replacement levies on the Feb. 11, 2014 special election ballot. We are grateful for your continued support of our schools.

Prop. 1: Yes 72.7%
No 27.3%

Prop. 2: Yes 73.7%
No 26.3%
‘Oklahoma’ comes to Shorecrest

The Shorecrest drama department will present Rodgers and Hammerstein’s classic musical “Oklahoma” from May 8 to 10 and 15 to 17 at 7:30 p.m. and May 11 and 18 at 2 p.m. in the school’s Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $10 and available through brownpapertickets.com or at the school. Photo by Sang-Won Cho.

Shoreline Schools Calendar

For complete listings of District events, subscribe to the Tandem calendar at shoreline.tandemcal.com

May 2014
8 to 11, 15 to 18 • Shorecrest musical “Oklahoma”
12 • Teacher of the Year reception, 6 p.m., Shoreline Center
12 • School Board meeting, 7 p.m., Shoreline Center
26 • No School, Memorial Day
31 • Shoreline Science Fair at Shoreline Community College, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; visit shorelinesciencefair.org for registration information

June 2014
2 and 23 • School Board meeting, 7 p.m., Shoreline Center
4 • Junior Art Show entries due to Shoreline/LFP Arts Council
9 • District Retirement Celebration, 5:30 p.m., Shoreline Center
15 • Graduation ceremonies at Comcast Arena in Everett; Shorecrest 2 p.m., Shorewood 6 p.m.
20 • Early release, last day of school for 2013-14
23 • Children’s Center summer programs begin
28-29 • Shoreline/LFP Arts Festival, Shoreline Center

July 2014
3-4 • District offices at Shoreline Center closed
7 • Elementary and Secondary Summer School begins