

A master plan for building on success

In 2005 a committee comprised of educators, engineers, architects and community members assembled to chart a course for improving the conditions of Bainbridge Island School District facilities.

Committee members reviewed educational specifications and current research on how facilities support best learning practices. They set priorities and goals for building, land and space development, and produced the Facilities Master Plan—a living document and roadmap to direct facility improvement decisions districtwide.

Facility improvements to date

Recommendations from the 2005 plan resulted in major improvements, including the replacement of the Bainbridge High School (BHS) 200 Building in 2009, additional science rooms at BHS and Commodore Options School, a new commons area at Commodore, and BHS stadium track and field replacement. In 2012, replacement of Wilkes Elementary School transformed four worn-out brick buildings with a failing septic system and temporary portables into an award-winning model of school design. The master plan also launched numerous smaller projects across the district.

New master plan committee identifies needs

The district formed a new committee in January 2015 to update the master plan. Committee members focused on three key topics: the current condition of school facilities; the ways building design can support or inhibit innovative curriculum;



Blakely Elementary School is one of four district facilities with significant structural, mechanical, electrical and design deficiencies.

and the cost implications of repairs, renovations or replacement. They worked to align comprehensive facility goals with educational trends and the district's mission, vision and guiding principles. They also reviewed data and reports from a 2014 state-funded facilities study and survey to assess the condition of all district schools. The reports identified critical facility needs and concluded that four buildings are in poor condition.

Despite winning accolades for academics, 50-year-old Blakely Elementary School has significant structural, mechanical, electrical and design deficiencies that do not support 21st century educational best practices. The BHS 100 Building, Ordway and Commodore have similar deficiencies. The committee considered three options to address these facility conditions: postponement with minimal patch/repair, modernization or replacement.

Additional issues included: the need for continued asset preservation at other district facilities; concerns about escalation of costs if projects are postponed; and increased classroom space requirements associated with the McCleary decision and Initiative 1351.

During an open public meeting this spring, the master plan committee presented to the school district's board of directors a summary of findings, cost estimates and tax implications. Key to the discussion—determining how to best serve the instructional needs of all students while acting as wise stewards of taxpayer dollars. Recognizing that four buildings require replacement or significant repair, committee members acknowledged that addressing all of the needs in one bond would be challenging for the community. Ultimately, they recommended the highest priorities should be replacement of Blakely Elementary School and the BHS 100 Building classrooms, combined with continued asset preservation at other facilities. These recommendations will provide the foundation for further discussion by the board of directors and community regarding facility needs and future bond requests. Completion of the master plan will take place this fall.



<http://bisd303.org/Page/647>
For more information on the master plan

Wilkes awards

BISD and Mahlum Architects envisioned Wilkes Elementary School as a forward-looking facility that expresses a commitment to collaboration, facilitates active and project-based learning, and improves student experiences. Flexible spaces enable students to explore science or art, develop and exhibit projects, and break out into small groups or work collaboratively. As a recognized leader in sustainable and innovative solutions to educational delivery and building performance, Wilkes has won the following awards:

- 2014 The James D. MacConnell Award, Finalist
- 2014 American Institute of Architects Washington (AIA/WA) Civic Design, Merit Award
- 2014 AIA CAE (Committee on Architecture for Education) Education Facility Design Award, Excellence Award
- 2014 American Institute of Architects' Honor Awards, Honorable Mention
- 2015 Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI) People's Choice Award
- 2015 CEFPI Washington Chapter Polished Apple Award

Bainbridge schools recognized

Last fall, the school achievement index released by the State Board of Education and Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) ranked Blakely Elementary School the No. 1 elementary school in the state. Wilkes Elementary tied with Big Lake Elementary in Sedro-Woolley for 31st place statewide.

This spring, OSPI named Bainbridge High School (BHS) and Ordway, Blakely and Wilkes elementary schools among 401 top-performing schools statewide. All four schools received the Washington Achievement Award for overall excellence. BHS earned additional honors for reading growth. Ordway, Wilkes and Blakely

received additional honors for math growth. Ordway was among 19 public elementary schools in the state (out of approximately 1,390) to win for both overall excellence and math growth.

"Our students worked hard last year to grow in targeted areas and they couldn't have done it without a lot of passion, dedication and support from our educators and our community," said Ordway Principal Melinda Reynvaan.

U.S. News & World Report awarded BHS a gold medal, ranking it the seventh best high school in Washington state. Eagle Harbor High School also ranked among the nation's top-performing schools.



Stars in Our Schools

Local gallery celebrates student art

Imagine a giant scorpion made of scrap metal. Eagle Harbor High School junior Greg Millican did. This spring, the sculpture he created from a chain saw, bicycle chain, a flattened toolbox and scraps of copper sat among the winners at the annual high school Spring Arts Festival.

“When I learned to weld, I thought it was the coolest thing ever,” Millican said. “I’ve seen scorpions made of scrap metal, but not entirely, and I wanted to see how my version would turn out.”

Every piece of award-winning art from the high school show went on exhibit in May at Bainbridge Arts & Crafts, including a small iron piggybank instantly recognizable from HBO’s “Game of Thrones,” a piano-shaped teapot, photographs, self-portraits and more.

“It’s so encouraging for students to get this kind of support,” said Dan Gallagher, whose daughter won a creativity award at Bainbridge High School for a chalk still life entitled “Tea Time.”

Bainbridge Arts & Crafts has been collaborating with the school district for at least 25 years, said Lindsay Masters, the gallery’s incoming executive director. Each May the gallery donates and dedicates one exhibition space to student art shows. Elementary or middle school art goes on exhibit the first half of the month; works by high school students go on exhibit the second half of the month.



Greg Millican won first place in the Bainbridge Arts & Crafts high school show for his scrap metal sculpture “Scorpion.” Above: Anneke Karreman won first place for her sculptural ceramic “Creature.”

“Student shows are a highlight of our year,” Masters said. “Selected works of art are consistently thoughtful and fresh, demonstrating both the students’ burgeoning talent and skill and their teachers’ deep dedication. Although the art wasn’t for sale, many visitors to the gallery wished it was. They were blown away by the caliber and inventiveness of the work.”

Each year an anonymous Bainbridge Island donor enables the gallery to award a total of \$1,200 to

the top high school artists. Nineteen artists received cash awards this year.

“As a community art gallery, we love having the chance to get to know a whole new crop of students and families each year. Our wish is to support fine arts in our schools and create lasting ties with each young artist,” Masters said.

Cover photo: Audrey Marcum’s self-portrait was among 218 winning works on display at Bainbridge Arts & Crafts.

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The arts are an integral part of human experience, education and self-expression.

learning by design

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