

NORTH MASON SCHOOL NEWS



WELCOME BACK

NM Tradition Began with '61 Bulldogs

A grand total of 11 graduates (just two of them girls) set the stage for North Mason's first hometown graduation in 1961.

Back then, students attended a brand new seven-room school, touted as "the cornerstone of a plant planned for this 57-acre site" donated by Alfred Snell. The plaza in front of NMHS is named for Snell.

Twelve teachers taught 145 students in grades 9-12, plus the 100 or so 7th and 8th graders who also attended, according to the '61 Siskan yearbook.

Strong traditions continue. Now we have another new school large enough to host a hometown graduation. The 1961 Siskan yearbook states "May the memories that this book recalls be happy ones for all of you."

And so it continues with the Class of 2018!

Bulldog Pride Shines as Class of 2018 Brings it HOME for Graduation

North Mason families, friends and community honored the Class of 2018 on June 12, making memories to rival the first hometown graduation ceremony held on campus back in 1961.

When we asked our community to support a bond to build the much-needed new and expanded high school, we committed to bringing the graduation ceremony home from the Kitsap Pavilion in Bremerton back to our own campus right here in Belfair.

And we did it!

This was the first year that graduation ceremonies were held in the combined gyms at North Mason High School. Almost 2,000 well-wishers attended, clapping and cheering as our North Mason High School and James A. Taylor High School graduates walked across the stage to receive their diplomas.

Four members of the senior class spoke about their high school experiences,

including valedictorian Ozelleona Chu, salutatorian Jennifer Lewis, Andres Francisco and Grace Collins. Also a NM tradition, our school board members took turns shaking hands and handing out diplomas to graduates.

What a night! It was very exciting to welcome families and friends to this community celebration.

Our student body has grown exponentially since 1961. This year, 168 seniors earned their diplomas and made plans for the future. Some will enter the workforce, some will join the military and

some will attend colleges and universities all over the United States. The Class of 2018 collected over \$350,000 in scholarships.

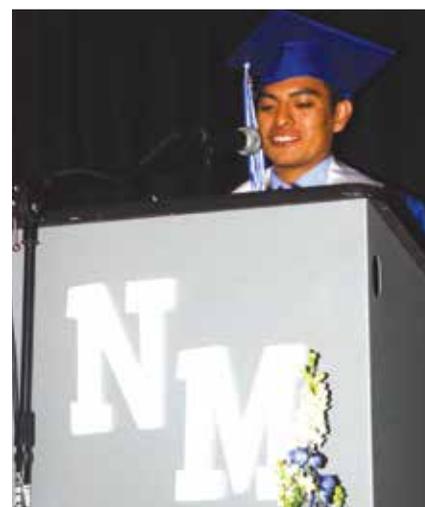
WAY TO GO BULLDOGS!

PHOTOS: Lower left - Seniors donned their caps & gowns to visit Belfair Elementary for the traditional "Grad Walk." Top left - Noah McDonald high-five's his teachers on the walk to ceremony. Center - Valedictorian Ozelleona Chu stands to deliver her speech before a full house of family and friends in the NMHS gym. (Photo by Steve Zugschwerdt.)



Each of you took different paths to get here tonight. Along the way, there have been celebrations, successes and obstacles ... sometimes seemingly overwhelming obstacles. Every one of you has achieved something amazing and tonight we celebrate your achievement!

– Superintendent Dana Rosenbach



I didn't know a single word of English when I started school here at North Mason ... but (tonight) I am standing in front of my classmates, my teachers and this community giving a graduation speech in English! ... I want to say to everyone that it is possible to dream big dreams and have them come true with hard work.

– Andres Francisco, Guatemalan native

LEFT: A proud family poses for the traditional graduation photo following the ceremony on June 12 at North Mason High School.

(Photos: Evan J. Baker Photography and Siskan Yearbook Staff)

ABOVE: Jennifer Lewis (salutatorian) and Ozelleona Chu (valedictorian) lead their fellow seniors in the processional at NMHS. BELOW: Graduates of James A. Taylor High School gather with staff for a class memory. (Photo: Steve Zugschwerdt)



AND SPEAKING OF TRADITION ...



What is One Hope YOU Have For Your Child at School?

by Beth Bourque, Director of MTSS, North Mason School District • bbourque@northmasonschoools.org

When asked to choose, 60% of parents say “being happy and not overly stressed” is more important for their children than academics.

A recent poll by the nonprofit *Learning Heroes* found that parents are especially concerned about happiness, peer pressure, safety and other issues related to their social and emotional well-being. How can we, as a school community, fulfill this hope while also providing students with academic rigor that will prepare them for the 21st century?

We must provide a well-balanced education that meets the needs of the Whole Child; academically, behaviorally, and social-emotionally. The North Mason School District recognizes the need for a system to provide this learning, beginning with aligning our work as educators into a Multi-Tiered System of Support, or MTSS.

What is MTSS?

In short, MTSS is a way of coordinating our initiatives, programs, and supports for ALL students in our school district.

Across the country, students are underperforming and displaying signs of distress in the way of dis-engagement (truancy issues), dis-connectedness (unable to show respect to peers and adults), and dis-regulation (unsafe behaviors). Here in North Mason, we too are impacted by these struggles.

MTSS will provide our district and school teams a process to identify appropriate interventions and supports for all students. Using information gathered about our students’ strengths and areas of need, we can put resources in place that will prevent them from falling behind, or make these resources and supports readily available if they do need them.

Screening Students for Social-Emotional Health

We screen our students in reading and math to see who may need additional support. What if we screened them for social, emotional and behavior challenges? There are screeners available that are quick, easy and reliable for predicting which students will struggle with these skills.

Having this information available as early as September or October, would enable us to identify these students and provide them with supports BEFORE they fall far behind. This will help prevent them from becoming disengaged with school, disrupting the learning of others, and in some cases, creating unsafe learning environments.

How MTSS Can Help

Having clear definitions of each Tiered Support is important at this stage.



TIER 1 consists of strategies and instruction we provide school-wide, to ALL students. We need to teach students the skills to be successful for academics, behavior and social-emotional learning.

We will also be creating a system that is prepared for students who do not respond to TIER 1 efforts. Resources need to be ready and waiting to identify students and provide more instruction, focused on just a few specific skills, at a more intense level. These are TIER 2 and TIER 3 supports. We are planning for about 15% of students to need some level of TIER 2 support. It

can be expected that about 5% of students will need more than a basic TIER 2 support. We are also working to have available more intensive TIER 3 interventions.

Taking Action

MTSS is more than strategies teachers will implement or resources the administrators will deploy. This program will be a coordinated, systematic effort that will reach far into our community. Intentional efforts to increase parent involvement, as well as provide support and training to parents must be a focus. Outreach to our community partners for coordinated health and wellness care, as well as community-wide understanding of Citizenship will be part of the action plan.

In March of 2018, all North Mason administrators and counselors met with Dr. Greg Benner, UW Tacoma professor of education and the executive director for the Center for

Strong Schools. In this meeting, the team began the work of scaling down the number of initiatives North Mason is currently sustaining; learning about the benefits of MTSS for students, staff and the community; sharing our vision for students at North Mason; and planning for focused team efforts to build our own, unique MTSS.

We have selected a district-level team that represents all school buildings and all disciplines. Much of the work from this team will continue during the 2018–2019 school year to ensure sustainability in the years beyond.

Our hope, aligned with parents, is that any child entering the North Mason School District will be met with a welcoming learning environment and will have their needs met – not just academically, but also socially and emotionally.

To learn more about North Mason’s MTSS, please contact Beth Bourque, Director of MTSS, at bbourque@northmasonschoools.org.





Craig Patti
NM School Board
District 5

Keeping Students Safe at School

It seems we can't watch the news on TV or scroll through our news feeds without seeing an article or coverage of demonstrations across the country regarding school safety.

These events fuel our discussions here at North Mason School District regarding how we can keep our students and staff safe at school. Passionate debate regarding the issues of mental health, gun control, bullying, family and societal dynamics and more surface in our discussions.

For the past two months, the school board has shared meaningful dialogue with our staff and community regarding discipline and behavior issues at school. To those who have attended a meeting or have contacted us individually, we thank you for taking the time to add your input. As a board, we want you, our community, to know that we are listening and constantly evaluating our work on your behalf.

We also want you to know that we are not alone in dealing with these important topics. As we network around the state, we hear about these same issues in other districts.

In response to addressing school safety, the district is implementing a program called Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS). PBIS uses evidence-based interventions to determine the most effective and positive approach to addressing even the most severe problem behaviors.

While this system is new to North Mason, it is important to emphasize that all change takes time. In our instant gratification society, it is easy to pull individual cases and conclude that behaviors are getting worse. The data provided to the board shows improvement in key indicators, but we also know that data alone doesn't tell the whole story. Our promise to you is to remain vigilant and ensure proper implementation and course correction when and where needed.

During the summer, the board will form a committee to re-examine our Key Work and create a strategic plan. Our Key Work was last examined in 2012, and while still generally relevant today, we must strive to stay ahead of emerging trends, needs and the community environment. We are excited to take on this challenge to reflect on where we have been, where we are now, and where we want to be in the future.

As always, we thank you for the privilege of serving you by educating our most precious resource: Our children, our future.

In Closing ...

We are already looking forward to the start of another school year in September 2018. Sports fans will note the significant progress on our NMHS stadium refit as evidenced by new locker room facilities, concession stands, bathrooms and a new scoreboard. We expect to complete this project over the coming year.

In the classroom, we are excited about introducing a new high school math curriculum and new science modules at the middle school.

Have a fantastic summer and we'll see you again in the fall!

Warm regards,

Dana G. Rosenbach (drosenbach@northmasonschoools.org)
North Mason Schools Superintendent

Learning is like rowing upstream; not to advance is to drop back – Chinese saying



Peninsula Community Health Services

We are very excited about our new on-campus partnership with Peninsula Community Health Services!

When students return in the fall of 2018, they will have access to health care services here on our campuses. PCHS will open a student health center on our secondary campus, providing health and mental health services. In addition, our partners at PCHS will provide well child services during visits to our elementary schools.

One immediate benefit will be seen by student athletes in need of sports physicals as they will be able to access the student health center for this service. We expect that our students will see many more benefits from this partnership as health services become readily available. Stay tuned for details!

Helpful FALL Dates

- 🍏 8/19: JTHS/HomeLink office opens
- 🍏 9/13: NMHS Athletic office opens
- 🍏 8/22: NMHS Main/Counseling offices open
- 🍏 8/22: **FRESHMAN ORIENTATION AT NMHS**
- 🍏 8/22: SH office opens
- 🍏 8/22: HMS office opens
- 🍏 8/27: BE office opens
- 🍏 9/4: HMS Sports practices begin
- 🍏 9/4: **BACK TO SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE at BE and SH**
- 🍏 9/5: **FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**
- 🍏 9/4-9/7: 6th Grade Camp at Camp Lyle McLeod
- 🍏 9/10: **FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN**
- 🍏 10/8: NO SCHOOL – Staff Development Day
- 🍏 10/22-24: Conferences – Elementary only, 1/2 day release
- 🍏 10/25-26: All School Conferences, 1/2 day release

How to Contact Us

- 🍏 Belfair Elementary 360-277-2233
- 🍏 Sand Hill Elementary 360-277-2330
- 🍏 Hawkins Middle School 360-277-2302
- 🍏 North Mason High School 360-277-2303
- 🍏 James Taylor HS/HomeLink 360-277-2329
- 🍏 District Office 360-277-2300
- 🍏 Bus Garage 360-277-2301



Download the NM App in the App store!