

# AVIATION HIGH SCHOOL

## ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Aviation High School (AHS) is the only aviation-themed high school in the Northwest. We opened this year with 100 students and will admit 100 ninth-graders annually.

It is a small school with a big vision — namely the belief that students can be simultaneously prepared for the rigors of college and the performance demands of a high-tech world and workplace. We believe that the work of school can be like the work outside the classroom and still be academically rigorous, and that with the right instructional approach it is possible for all students to be prepared for higher education and work in a knowledge-based, global economy.

Although Highline Public Schools is the home of this unique learning community, students throughout the Puget Sound region may apply. This year half are local students and the rest commute from surrounding districts, some as far away as Monroe and Issaquah. Many aspire to become scientists, engineers, astronauts, pilots, aviation technicians, and CEOs in aviation/aerospace fields. Many are drawn by the school's focus on math, science and technology. Some are simply drawn by our unique approach to teaching and learning.

The school is temporarily located on the Duwamish campus of South Seattle Community College (SSCC), close to Boeing Field, airports, and hundreds of aviation-related enterprises that provide opportunities to extend and enrich learning. The school receives additional financial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Port of Seattle.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This year we focused on the hard work of developing an instructional program characterized by the rigor of high academic standards, the relevance of applicable knowledge, and the supportive relationships of a small learning community that allows for more personalized learning. When our vision is fully realized, students in all courses will be grappling with genuine problems and issues faced by adults in the world outside the classroom. To the extent possible, these problems and issues will be drawn from the field of aviation and aerospace. Students will employ technology as a design, production, and communication tool. They will learn to manage complex projects, take responsibility for their own learning, and collaborate with others to plan, solve, and carry out a course of action.

Students will demonstrate their understanding and competence through the products and performances they create and will receive feedback from subject-matter experts. The quality of their work and thinking will be measured against both academic and workplace standards of competence. Older students will have opportunities to take Advanced Placement courses, intern in local businesses, and complete an independent-study senior project.

Through a partnership with SSCC, students will have the opportunity to earn college credit and potentially even an Associates degree concurrent with their high school diploma.

## Ethnic Population:

Black = 7	Hispanic = 4
Asian/Pacific Islander = 18	White = 69
American Indian = 2	

**Free and Reduced Lunch:** 26%

**Student Achievement:** 98% average daily attendance. 97% will finish the school year. No test data available yet.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We believe parent involvement is vital to the success of the school mission. Parents are asked to commit 20 hours of time as volunteers in ways of their choosing — assisting in the office, advising a club, and organizing or chaperoning extracurricular activities.

## 2004/2005 HIGHLIGHTS

- All students co-piloted a small aircraft this year and experienced the full-motion simulation of piloting a jet aircraft. Many site visits and field trips were made.
- Elective courses included aviation media, the history of aircraft design, and Federal Aviation Administration approved "Ground School," for which students earned five college credits upon passing the FAA exam.
- Students enjoy membership privileges at the Museum of Flight, one of the school's active partners in learning.
- Computers are in every classroom, and this year's projects had students using software such as Flight Simulator, Image-J, Vernier motion analysis, and Inspiration. Students began developing Web-based portfolios of their work.
- Students were matched with mentors in aviation and aerospace who are committed to providing guidance and support for their academic and career success throughout their high school years.
- A PTSA was formed with 100% parent membership.
- The school received favorable press from National Public Radio, CBS' Early Show, Seattle's two newspapers & the Associated Press.

## PLANS FOR 2005/2006

Sophomores will prepare for the English, math, and science WASL tests, and produce their Flight-One (grade 9/10) Portfolio entries. Culminating projects will be implemented in every core course. New aviation-related elective courses will be offered. The Flight Two (grades 11/12) instructional program will be developed. Five teachers will be added to the staff to accommodate 100 new students.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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