

AVIATION HIGH SCHOOL School Performance Report 2005-2006

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Aviation High School (AHS) is the only college preparatory aviation-themed high school in the Northwest. It is our aim to become the premier school of choice for science, pre-engineering and technology in the Puget Sound region. We opened in 2004 with the inaugural class of freshmen 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 about 60% 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 students' work and thinking will be measured against both academic and workplace standards of competence. Students in the upper grades will have the opportunity to take Advanced Placement courses, and seniors will be able to take college courses through South Seattle Community College or other Running Start options. Some students may also choose to pursue technical training through courses at the Occupational Skills Center while others will intern in the aviation industry or carry out an independent-study senior project.

Ethnic Population:

Black = 8%	Hispanic = 5%
Asian/Pacific Islander = 20%	White = 66%
American Indian = 1%	

Free and Reduced Lunch: 29%



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

This was our first year administering the 10th-grade WASL. Assessment results will not be available until June, at which time we will report the results to our parent community and stakeholders. On the *Measure of Academic Progress* (MAP), AHS students scored well above the national average with 81% of freshmen and 76% of sophomores scoring above the national median in reading, and 84% of freshmen and 77% of sophomores scoring above the national median in math.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We believe parent involvement is vital to the success of the school mission. Parents are encouraged to contribute 20 hours of time as volunteers in ways of their choosing — assisting in the office, advising a club, providing professional feedback on student work, assisting with recruitment and interviewing of potential staff and students, and chaperoning fieldtrips, dances, or other extracurricular activities. An active PTSA sponsors an

annual scholarship fundraising event which, this year, yielded more than \$10,000. The PTSA has also contributed funds to pay travel and registration fees for Science Olympiad students to compete in local, regional, and national competitions. In addition to volunteerism, parents are expected to attend all school-sponsored events, including open houses and curricular programs.



2005/2006 HIGHLIGHTS

- We added a second class of freshmen for a total school enrollment of just under 200 students.
- Elective courses this year included Aviation and the American Character, Environmental Stewardship (in partnership with the Duwamish Cleanup Coalition), Forensics, the History of Aircraft Design, Information Technology, Robotics (in partnership with the Museum of Flight), Science Olympiad, and Visual Communication.
- Students made numerous site visits to learn about the aviation/aerospace industry, including Sea-Tac International Airport, The Boeing Company's Wing Test facility, and Alteon.
- Students collaborated with community members on projects and/or received feedback on their work from subject-matter experts in various industries. They made site visits in relation to project work, including the Wing Luke Asian Museum (oral history), the Woodland Park Zoo (recycling), Earth Day at the Duwamish River (environmental stewardship), and a tour of the city's viaduct, light rail and bus systems (transit planning).
- AHS students brought home first-place and other awards from academic competitions in Science Olympiad and Japanese oration. Three students earned honorable mention in the Toshiba Exploravision competition.
- Students enjoyed membership privileges at the Museum of Flight, one of the school's active partners in learning.
- Students have had access to computer technology in every class. They used various software applications this year to design structures, collect and analyze stress and motion data, make movies, develop Web-based portfolios of classroom work, and research, organize, and present information for different audiences and purposes.
- Every student that requested a mentor was matched with an adult from the aviation/aerospace field with whom they share interests/educational goals. The

mentor commits to guiding and supporting the student for four years.

- Thirty-six students attended a four-day Aviation Careers camp at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake, experiencing the thrill of flight as well as learning about aviation maintenance, engineering, manufacturing, and corporate and military aircraft operations.
- Some students participated in the National Student Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. to learn about national security and intelligence. They gained leadership skills through a mock US Security Council Conference and interacting with peers and elected officials.
- The entire sophomore class attended the Engineering & Health Sciences fairs at the University of Washington and gained insights about college admission requirements.

PLANS FOR 2006/2007

All students will create a personal web page on the school server that will hold samples of classwork from grades 9-12, including photos and video that meet school, district and state performance standards for graduation. The primary purpose of the portfolio is to provide evidence in addition to the WASL that the student: (a) understands the two primary methods of disciplined inquiry used in physical vs. social science, (b) can apply concepts and skills learned in class to solve real-world problems, (c) can speak and write in another language, and (d) has completed the mandatory classroom-based assessments in social studies, health, and the arts.

We will pilot a senior project planning class for juniors next year in which they propose and obtain approval for their project idea (it must be worthwhile, challenging, meaningful, and manageable), find a mentor, and develop a budget, timeline, and plan of action. The project may be started the summer between junior and senior years and must be completed by the end of first semester of senior year.

In addition to the senior project planning course, we are developing and adding several new courses and seminars for next year, including an integrated Biology and Health class; an integrated Geometry and Art course; Physics, US History, and English-I I; Advanced Placement Calculus, US History, and English Language Composition; second-year Spanish and Japanese; and the following electives: Competitive Robotics, Aviation Engineering, Aviation Law & Ethics, Private Pilot Ground School, Music Appreciation, and an independent-study virtual learning option. We are adding five new teachers to staff to offer this instructional program and accommodate 100+ new students.

CONTACT INFORMATION

6770 East Marginal Way S
Seattle WA 98108
206.716.0006

Reba Gilman, Principal
gilmanrj@hsd401.org
<http://www.AviationHS.org>

