

## AVIATION HIGH SCHOOL School Performance Report 2006-2007

### 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.

AHS 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 65% 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.

For the past three years, the school has been located on the Duwamish campus of South Seattle Community College (SSCC), close to Boeing Field, airports, The Museum of Flight, and hundreds of aviation-related enterprises that provide opportunities to extend and enrich learning. Since the college is expanding its programs and student enrollment at the same time that Aviation High School is reaching its capacity, we must relocate next school year to Olympic Site in Des Moines. It is important, however, that the school be located within the Boeing Field vicinity to fully realize its vision and mission, so we are pleased to announce that plans are underway to construct a permanent school on property that has been offered by The Museum of Flight, adjacent to their Airpark. Anticipated date of occupancy in the new school is fall of 2011.

The school received start-up funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Port of Seattle. An active PTSA provides additional resources to enhance teaching and learning.

### 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 Puget Sound Skills Center or a community college while others will intern in the aviation industry or carry out an independent-study senior project.

### Ethnic Population:

Black = 5.0%                      Hispanic = 7.0%  
Asian/Pacific Islander = 18.0%      White = 66.0%  
American Indian = 4.0%

**Free and Reduced Lunch:** 20%



### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Preliminary WASL results for the class of 2009 are extremely positive, with 99% meeting standard in

Reading, 97% meeting standard in Writing and 85% meeting standard in Math. Students in the Class of 2008 experienced the same high level results when assessed during the previous school year. Science scores for the Class of 2008 were 71%; and science scores for the Class of 2009 have not yet been released. On the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP), AHS students scored well above the national average with 85% of freshmen and 69% of sophomores scoring above the national median in reading, and 79% of freshmen and 69% of sophomores scoring above the national median in math. Sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT also scored significantly higher in reading, writing, and math than state and national averages.



### 2006/2007 HIGHLIGHTS

- We added a third class of freshmen for a total school enrollment of just under 300 students and have admitted 125 new students for the 2007-2008 school year.
- Elective courses this year included Aviation and the American Character, Private Pilot Ground School (in partnership with SSCC), Art History, Aerospace Engineering, the History of Aircraft Design, Information Technology, Robotics (in partnership with the Museum of Flight), Science Olympiad, and Aviation Law and Order.
- Students participated in several large-scale, interdisciplinary projects, developing and applying their skills and content knowledge as they worked together to research historical and current issues, then presented their findings in a variety of public formats, including museum exhibitions and presentation to aviation industry experts.
- AHS students brought home first-place and other awards from academic competitions in Science Olympiad and Japanese oration.
- The first year Robotics team achieved a first-place award at a regional competition, and traveled to Atlanta to compete in a national competition where they finished in the top 50% of all competitors.
- All students have continued to develop their electronic portfolios, and the sophomore class participated in student-led-conferences in which they presented their portfolios to their parents and discussed their academic progress.
- Students continued to be matched with mentors from the aviation/aerospace field with whom they share interests/educational goals.

- The entire freshman class toured SeaTac International Airport, including a private tour of the Northwest Airlines maintenance facility and lunch with airport employees.
- The entire sophomore class visited the University of Washington and gained insights about college admission requirements.
  - One student earned the privilege of graduating one year early and was honored as a Washington scholar, entitling her to four years of tuition-free studies at the University of Washington.

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

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 field trips, dances, or other extracurricular activities. Our very supportive PTSA sponsors annual scholarship fundraising events which, this year, yielded more than \$60,000.

### PLANS FOR 2007/2008

We are looking forward to adding senior-level courses such as AP Calculus, AP Physics, AP Literature, and our senior capstone course, *Flight by Design*. *Flight by Design* will give students the opportunity to experience the design and engineering components of a flight test facility. Students will design and flight-test various types of radio-controlled aircraft, using onboard electronic data-collection devices to collect and analyze flight data, then use the data and graphic design software to improve their designs. Additionally we will be excited to graduate our inaugural class of students! We are extremely proud of these students, as we are of all our students!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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