



HIGHLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Aviation High School
SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2007-08 SCHOOL YEAR

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Aviation High School (AHS) is the only college preparatory aviation-themed high school in the Northwest. It is our goal to become the premier school of choice for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) in the Pacific Northwest. We opened in 2004 with the inaugural class of freshmen and are now at near capacity of 400 students in grades 9-12.

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 percent were local students and the rest commuted from surrounding districts, some as far away as Tacoma, Everett, and Bremerton. 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 first three years, the school was 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 was expanding its programs and student enrollment at the same time that Aviation High School was reaching its capacity, we relocated the school to Olympic Middle School in Des Moines. It is important, however, that the school ultimately 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 during the 2011-2012 school year.

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. During this past year we were awarded a three-year grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation to develop and implement an internship and mentoring program. We are grateful for such support, which makes a positive difference in preparing our students for college, career, and citizenship.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Last year, the principal's message focused on the goals for teaching, learning, and student achievement that were driving the development of our academic program. That message emphasized: "...students in all courses... grappling with genuine problems and issues faced by adults in the world outside the classroom;" "problems and issues ... drawn from the fields of aviation and aerospace;" students using technology as "design, production, and communication tools;" and, students demonstrating "their understanding and competence through the products and performances they create" and through "feedback from subject-matter experts." In addition, the message identified academic goals: measuring student work and thinking against both academic and workplace standards; students performing exceptionally on Advanced Placement and other college level courses; and students demonstrating professional level competence in technical training courses offered through the Puget Sound Skills Center or a community college.

This year, that same message is still applicable. At Aviation, one of our sources of pride is that we are constantly engineering the instructional program, both by developing new course offerings and by refining current courses to bring them closer and closer to our ideal approach to teaching and learning. This year was special, though, in the life of AHS, because we had seniors in our school for the first time. That meant that we offered new courses for the students, such as AP English Literature, AP Calculus, AP Japanese, and AP Physics. We also launched a very innovative capstone senior program called Flight by Design, which combines Graphic Design and Flight Engineering, giving students an opportunity to apply their math and science learning in the kind of context where these disciplines are used by adults in the workforce.

And, perhaps the most exciting aspect of this school year is that this year we graduated our inaugural students! The *Highlights* section of this report speaks to their plans for college and the scholarships that they received to pursue their dreams and goals.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

WASL results for the class of 2010 are most positive, with students meeting or exceeding standard, as follows: 98% in Reading and Writing, 80% in Math, and 79% in Science. Students in the Class of 2009 experienced similar high-level results when assessed during the previous school year. On the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP), AHS students scored well above the national average. Sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT also scored significantly higher in reading, writing, and math than state and national averages.

Advanced Placement scores are also higher than local, state, and national averages.

ETHNIC BACKGROUND

<i>Black</i>	5.0%
<i>Asian/Pacific Islander</i>	16.0
<i>American Indian</i>	3.0
<i>Hispanic</i>	10.0
<i>White</i>	66.0

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH 25%

HIGHLIGHTS

- We added our fourth class of freshmen, our largest class yet at 125, bringing the total number of students enrolled in the school for the 2008-09 school year to near capacity of 400 students.
- We graduated 71 seniors, with 94% meeting college readiness standards as defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Board, and 100% meeting or exceeding WASL requirements. Of these students, four are entering the military and the remainder will be entering college next year--24 to community college before transferring to a four-year college, and others going directly to four-year colleges and universities. Among the highlights of these graduates is one going to the Air Force Academy, one to Harvey Mudd University, one to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, fourteen to the University of Washington, three to Washington State University, one to University of Nebraska, one to Rocky Mountain College, and six attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. In addition, the class as a whole earned about \$1,000,000 in scholarships, including several that are for full tuition.
- 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, Issues in Commercial Aviation, Astronomy, Flight by Design, & Music & Then Some.
- 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 presentations to aviation industry experts
- AHS students brought home top honors in academic-technical competitions in Science Olympiad as well as Japanese oration.
- Our second-year FIRST Robotics team achieved a first-place award at the first-ever Gates Seattle competition. The entire school attended this event to cheer our Skunkworks team onto victory! The team then traveled to Portland for regional competition, then to Atlanta to the world championships

where they finished 5th in their division and got into the final playoffs for the first time.

- All students have continued to develop their electronic portfolios, and this year students in grades 9-11 facilitated conferences with their parents in which they presented their portfolios and reviewed their academic progress.
- Students continued to be matched with mentors from the aviation/aerospace field with whom they share interests/educational goals
- Aviation High School was selected by the International Center for Leadership in Education as one of 23 best-practice schools in the country, which resulted in an invitation to present at a national conference in June. The school also received a membership in the Best Practices Network.
- The entire freshmen class toured SeaTac International Airport, including a private tour of the Northwest Airlines maintenance facility and lunch with airport employees
- Scott McComb, 9th grade science teacher, was selected as Teacher of the Year by Highline Schools Foundation for Excellence. Susan Hegeberg, Assistant Principal, was selected for the ING Unsung Heroes Award for innovation in developing the Flight by Design program.
- The entire sophomore class visited the University of Washington and gained insights about college admission requirements. Many individual students visited college campuses throughout the state and nation.
- Two students earned their private pilot's license and five more soloed.
- Sixteen students were selected to participate in the Washington Aerospace Scholars program, sponsored by The Museum of Flight and the Washington State Legislature.
- The Cascade Warbirds again sponsored a student to the summer Air Academy in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.
- Fifty-five students were selected to participate in the Pathfinder Gala at the Museum of Flight.
- Ten students represented AHS at the Governor's first annual Washington Aerospace Summit.
- Four students represented AHS at the Washington Airport Manager's Association Conference & Tri-State Conference.

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 2008-09

We will continue to integrate aviation-related concepts into the curriculum, with the support of our many partners in aviation and aerospace. We will delve more deeply into performance based assessment and learn new strategies for differentiating instruction. We will initiate a plan for ensuring that all students are connected with an adult mentor and are prepared for an internship experience in the junior year.

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