



HIGHLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS Aviation High School

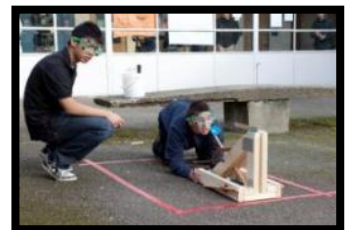
SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR

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 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 a capital campaign has been launched and design 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. Further information about the capital campaign can be found on the AHS website at <http://www.AviationHS.org>.



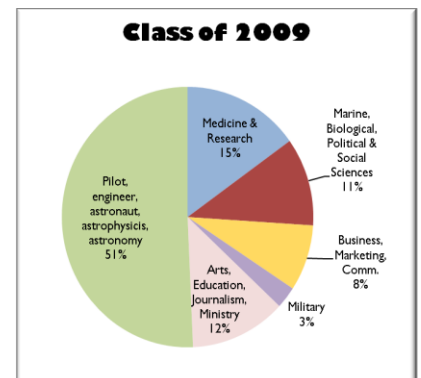
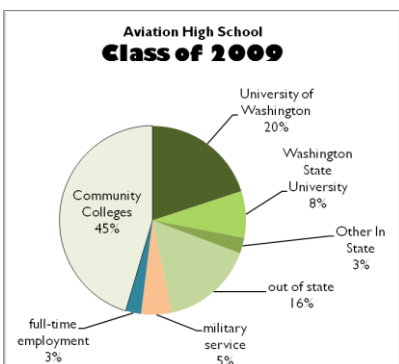
The school received start-up funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Port of Seattle. Our active PTSA provides additional resources to enhance teaching and learning. We are in our second year of a three-year grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation to develop and implement an internship 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

We believe that students learn best when they explore, investigate, analyze, reflect, perform, debate, work with others, solve problems, build, design, test ideas, visit places, and interact with mentors and experts. We also believe that students are more likely to think and work hard when they are passionate about the context in which learning takes place. For us, the context is aviation and aerospace.

Flight inspires all of us who work at Aviation High School. We use the theme to focus and integrate the curriculum, and we engage the minds, hearts, and hands of our students in solving complex, authentic problems encountered in the workplace, primarily in the fields of aviation and aerospace. Because the staff of Aviation High School is committed to preparing all of our students for college, career, and citizenship, we focus on measuring our students' work and thinking against both academic and workplace standards. Students use technology to design, to produce, and to communicate, and they demonstrate their understanding and competence through products and performances. They create multiple iterations of designs and present their findings to subject-matter experts who provide feedback and guidance to enhance their learning. 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.

We graduated our second class this year! 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 2011 are superior, with students meeting or exceeding standard, as follows: 98% in Reading; 100% in Writing; 87% in Math, and 87% in Science. Aviation High School scored third highest in the State of Washington in math and science. This is particularly impressive, given the demographics of AHS in comparison with the top two performing high schools. AHS students also scored well above the state and national averages on the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP), and sophomores and juniors who took the PSAT also scored significantly higher in reading, writing, and math than state and national averages. Advanced Placement scores also exceed local, state, and national averages.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✦ The school earned full accreditation status by the National Association of Secondary Schools. This distinction indicates that our instructional program is meeting or exceeding standard in preparing our students for college, career, and citizenship.
- ✦ The diversity of our student population was significantly enhanced: 47% of our incoming 9th graders are students of color and 50% come from outside Highline School District.
- ✦ We graduated 73 students, 94% of whom meet college readiness standards; 100% met or exceeded WASL requirements. This small but powerful class collectively earned more than \$1.4 in scholarships and training awards.
- ✦ Elective course offerings this year included Aviation and the American Character, Private Pilot Ground School (in partnership with SSCC), Aerospace Engineering, History of Aircraft Design, Information Technology, Economics, Robotics Engineering (including an introductory course in partnership with The Museum of Flight), Science Olympiad, Astronomy, Aviation Business, Flight by Design, Music & Then Some, Yearbook, and a new ninth grade offering called Aviation is Everywhere.
- ✦ Students again participated in several large-scale, interdisciplinary projects, developing and applying their skills and content knowledge and presenting their findings in a variety of public formats, including museum performances and presentations to aviation industry experts.
- ✦ Our “sports of the mind” teams—Science Olympiad and FIRST Robotics—brought home top honors: AHS Science Olympians placed first at Regionals and 12th in the state. The Skunkworks Robotics team won the Regional Championship at the Oregon FIRST Regional, the Delphi Driving Tomorrow’s Technology Award, Motorola Quality Award at the Microsoft Seattle FIRST Regional, Website Award for Excellence from FIRST and participated in the World Championship in Atlanta.
- ✦ Students taking Japanese earned top honors in Japanese Oration. One student was selected as one of 24 students nationally to participate in the Reischauer Scholar Program through Stanford University.
- ✦ During student-led conferences with parents in the spring of the year, students used their digital portfolios to demonstrate their learning throughout the year.

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, again this year, greatly enhanced our many programs at AHS.

ETHNIC BACKGROUND

<i>Black</i>	7%
<i>Asian/Pacific Islander</i>	19
<i>American Indian</i>	3
<i>Hispanic</i>	10
<i>White</i>	61

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH 21%

- ✦ Nearly all of our sophomores were matched with a mentor in an aviation or aerospace-related field; 25% of our students participated in an internship experience, which included placements at organizations like SEAFAIR, Sea-Tac Airport, Aerotec, Raisbeck Engineering, etc.
- ✦ The freshman class toured Sea-Tac Airport and participated in a series of job-shadowing and internship experiences to learn about the myriad career opportunities within aviation and aerospace.
- ✦ The school’s principal was selected as a Pathfinder in aviation and aerospace and honored by the Museum of Flight for her commitment to developing and leading Aviation High School.
- ✦ The sophomore class visited the University of Washington and gained insights about college admission requirements. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University sponsored six students to visit their Arizona campus.
- ✦ Through a generous donation from a local businessman, five students received scholarships to take flying lessons: one student earned commercial ratings this past year, one earned his private pilot’s license, and five completed their solos.
- ✦ Eleven students were selected to participate in the Washington Aerospace Scholars program, sponsored by The Museum of Flight and the Washington State legislature. Three were chosen for the summer residency program.
- ✦ The Cascade Warbirds sponsored a student to the summer Air Academy in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.
- ✦ Ten students represented AHS at the second annual Governor’s Aerospace Summit.
- ✦ Students developed and honed their leadership skills through a variety of school clubs: ASB, Culture Club, Honor Society, Airline Pilot Career Experience (ACE) and others.
- ✦ Nearly all students performed community service: fundraising for various charities, helping the elderly, volunteering at hospitals, tutoring elementary students, etc.
- ✦ Members of ACE Club and the entire senior class enjoyed a flight on a brand new 737 aircraft when Alaska Airlines invited them to be part of a delivery flight this spring. Thank you, Alaska & Boeing!
- ✦ It was announced that our new school will be Raisbeck Aviation High School when it opens in 2012 at The Museum of Flight. The Raisbecks are lead donors to construction of the school.

PLANS FOR 2009-10

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 better understanding how our students learn and think. We will continue to connect our students with mentoring and internship experiences.

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