



Josephine Moccia, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

Board of Directors
Damian Greene
Julie Hadden
Linda Racicot
Shawn Nowlin
Dr. Fred O'Neal

February 1, 2017

Dear K-12 Staff:

After nearly a year of discussion, the Board has decided to relocate our students from the Langley Middle School to other locations. I met with interested staff at all schools and listened to concerns and options. I have also met with and heard from administrative staff and community members. After considering all of the input, along with my own knowledge of our school and community, and over thirty years of educational experience, I made a decision regarding how we will configure our K-12 program for all of our students.

Considerations:

- Students at all levels will be taught by teachers who are familiar with the age and developmental level of the student.
- Students will be safe, secure, and cared for by the adults in charge.
- Teachers will be teaching at the level for which they are qualified.
- Students will be housed appropriately with opportunities to integrate and options to separate from older and younger students.
- Students at all levels and in all locations will have appropriate supervision and dedicated clerical, support and administrative staff.
- School and program identity will be established and the opportunity for reinventing programs is also available.
- ASB, Leadership, assemblies, field trips etc., will be available to all students just as they are now.

New, different and exciting opportunities will develop over time. I have great confidence in our professional staff.

Our most important work is what we do for our students. Each of us will need to step up and work positively on the changes that are going to happen. My goal remains to have students in classrooms with the teachers who care about them.

As we celebrate Langley Middle School, we will transition from using it as a school. We have outstanding teachers and staff who will be able to help families with the transition by showing them how much they care about our students, no matter where programs are located.

As of September 2017, K-4 will be located at South Whidbey Elementary School. Grades 5 and 6 will be at what is now known as the Primary Campus. We will refer to this campus as SWES South Campus. The 5/6 program will allow for teaming and helping students move from an elementary environment toward a secondary environment. There will be a dedicated secretary and counselor on site at the South Campus with an administrator serving grades 5-8. Grades 7 and 8 will be at South Whidbey High School along with Grades 9-12 and South Whidbey Academy grades 7-12. Grades 7 and 8 will be separate from the 9-12 students in both spaces occupied and schedules.

Now that configuration of program is settled, staff may have a preference as to what they do and where they are next year. Please provide input to your principal as soon as possible. Many staffing decisions will be made by March 1st. By April 1 we will have classroom locations and bell schedules finalized.

A postcard will be mailed to all community members in the next few days. I have also attached talking points for staff to use with students. This letter, talking points and the post card information will be placed on the district website as well.

Thank you all for what you do every day. While we all understand that change is not easy, it also represents exciting opportunities for our students and for all of us. Let's embrace this transition and make it a positive change for students. Our students are our first priority and it is up to all of us, especially the teachers, to help them understand what the changes will mean.

Thank you,

Jo Moccia