

# Aberdeen Schools

Keeping you informed about our schools -- Jan. 12, 2024

## Miller Jr. High celebrating 100 years this month!



*Photo above is from 1931 when the school was located adjacent to the AHS campus. The present-day school opened in 1979 and is located at 100 Lindstrom St. in South Aberdeen. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, January 28 -- 100 years to the day that Miller Junior High began serving students in our community.*

### A day to look back ... and ahead

Excitement is building at Miller Junior High School as the Jan. 28 date for the centennial celebration approaches. Students and staff at Miller are preparing an open house that celebrates every decade. Principal John Meers and retired Miller Principal Jerry Salstrom are co-chairs in the planning.



Our state's chief historian and Aberdeen alum, John C. Hughes, will offer remarks and Mayor Douglas Orr will proclaim Sunday, Jan. 28, as *George B. Miller Junior High School 100th Anniversary Day*.

In addition to the historical exhibits that students are preparing for the open house, the Miller Orchestra will perform and the Miller Band, under the direction of David Mills, will premiere a new composition, The Miller March, composed by Gordon Shaw .

Miller Junior High School was the first junior high in the state -- an innovative school specifically designed to serve students who are no longer children but not yet young adults.

Over the years, Miller has seen 13 principals at the helm:

- **1923** Richard R. Balkema (promoted to high school before Miller opened)
- **1923 - 1956** Everett G. Shimmin
- **1956 - 1966** Wilfred Carns
- **1966 - 1980** Norm Newman
- **1980 - 1989** Fred Easter
- **1989 -1999** Jerry Salstrom
- **1999 - 2000** Jim Shank
- **2000 - 2005** Ben Talbert
- **2005 - 2009** Dennis Eygabroad
- **2009 - 2011** Jean Prochaska
- **2011 - 2015** Mark Decker
- **2015 - 2021** Lisa Griebel
- **2021 - Present** John Meers

Doors will open at 1:30 p.m. The program will begin in the MJH Gym at 2 p.m. followed by the open house. This is a community-wide event and everyone is invited to help celebrate our community's commitment to education.



**Miller Junior High Centennial T-Shirt Order Form.pdf**

**Download**  
336.8 KB

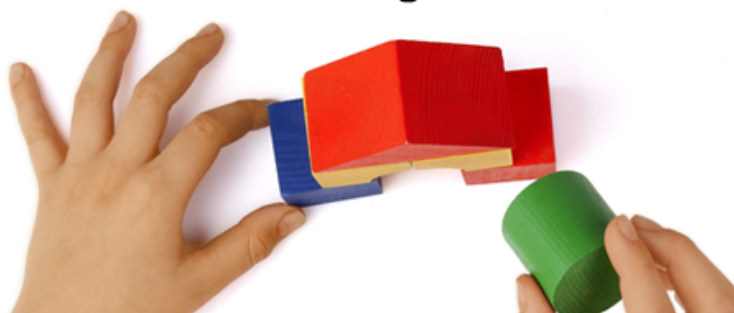
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## January is School Board Recognition Month



# Building the future of public education

*Celebrate School Board Recognition Month in January*



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*Thank you to our board of directors for your service!*

## Next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 16

[Agenda](#) (pdf)

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the Community Room at Aberdeen High School.

Those who attend regular meetings are welcome to sign up at the meeting to provide public comment on agenda items. Written public comment for the record can also be submitted up to noon the day of the meeting by writing to [schoolboard@asd5.org](mailto:schoolboard@asd5.org). Comments or concerns not on the agenda can be brought to the attention of the district by contacting the Superintendent's Office or by contacting individual board members.

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**Levy information meetings upcoming**



Superintendent Jeffrey Thake is planning two additional informational meetings about the upcoming special levy election. Dr. Thake will present information and take questions about the levy at:


- 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at Stevens Elementary School, and
- 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at Aberdeen High School.

There are two measures the community will decide:

1. Renewal of the **Education Programs & Operations Levy**, (aka the EP&O levy). This levy funds programs and activities not funded by the state, especially athletics, music, other extra-curricular activities and maintenance. Voters approved this levy four years ago at a rate not to exceed \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. The renewal is for the same tax rate.
2. A **Capital Projects Levy**. This is new. The bonds for the high school are paid off and the School Board is requesting a \$1 per \$1,000 four-year levy for investment in our aging facilities. Capital funds are not for maintenance. They can only be used to invest in improvements.

As noted in the FAQs below, the estimated combined tax rate of \$3.50 per \$1,000 assessed value for both levies is less than the current rate of \$3.82 per \$1,000 of assessed value. It is estimated the combined rate will decrease to \$3.32 per \$1,000 by the fourth year.

### Levy Q & A February 13, 2024



Voters in the Aberdeen School District will decide two levies during the Feb. 13, 2024 special election:

- An Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy for **programs**
- A Capital Projects Levy for **projects**

**What will the levies pay for?**  
The EP&O Levy is a renewal of the existing levy, which is expiring. It will continue the community's support for programs such as athletics, music, drama, school counselors, nurses/health assistants, curriculum, technology, building maintenance, and other programs that are either not funded or are underfunded by the state.

The Capital Levy is new and will fund modern upgrades to our aging buildings and technology infrastructure. The bonds for J.M. Weatherwax High School are now paid off. The \$1 per \$1,000 being proposed for building upgrades is less than the annual tax rate was for the high school.

**Where do public schools get their money?**  
About 72% comes from the state, about 18% from the federal government, about 9% from local taxes, and 1% from other sources such as grants or fees.

**Why is the District asking for more money?**  
The current EP&O levy approved four years ago was for \$5,200,000 in each of the four years. This replacement request is for \$5,950,000 per year for the next four years and reflects increased program costs.

Due to the high school bond being paid off, the combined tax rate of both the EP&O Levy and the Capital Projects Levy will not result in a rate increase.

EP&O Levy		
<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2025	\$2.50	\$5,950,000
2026	\$2.50	\$5,950,000
2027	\$2.42	\$5,950,000
2028	\$2.32	\$5,950,000

Capital Projects Levy		
<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2025	\$1.00	\$2,188,984
2026	\$1.00	\$2,276,544
2027	\$1.00	\$2,367,606
2028	\$1.00	\$2,462,310

**How much will the combined levy cost property owners?**

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value</u>	<u>Cost for \$250,000 Home</u>
2025 (est)	\$3.50	\$875.00
2026	\$3.50	\$875.00
2027	\$3.42	\$855.00
2028	\$3.32	\$830.00

*More Information is available at [www.asd5.org](http://www.asd5.org)*



**How do schools get "local" dollars?**

Through voter-approved property taxes such as the two being proposed.

Property owners pay a set amount for each \$1,000 of their property's value (called Assessed Valuation or AV). These levies cannot be increased once approved. Below is the estimated rate per \$1,000 of assessed value for both levies.

**Why ask for a Capital Levy and not a Bond?**

As you may recall, a bond initiative that was proposed to replace one of our elementary schools at the last election cycle failed by one (1) vote. Bond planning for a new school can take several years. Meantime, we have current facility needs that should be addressed before the next bond initiative for a new school is placed before voters.

**When is the vote?**

Ballots will be mailed in late January, with all ballots due on or before February 13, 2024.

**Do all school districts receive equal state funding?**

The state recognizes that some communities have higher property values and can more easily raise funds to support their schools. That is not the case in Aberdeen. For this reason, the state will provide a "match" to districts like ours if the levy passes. In the previous calendar year, the Aberdeen School District received an additional \$2.4 million from the state because voters supported the levy.

This match to our schools is over 3.67% of the total budget and is not available unless the levy is approved.

**What programs does the EP&O Levy fund?**

All extra-curricular, co-curricular, PE, music, and drama programs are funded with local levy dollars. The elementary swimming program and Outdoor School are supported with levy dollars. In addition, the levy helps fund salaries for staff to improve student learning and other professional development; para-educator support in the classroom and on the playground; improve and maintain technology in our classrooms; support the services and supplies needed to clean and maintain our buildings and grounds. The levy will also augment school counselor staffing above the state funding model so that services remain available. The capital levy will be used for construction/facility upgrades to continue investing in our existing facilities.

**Aren't these items funded by the state under basic education funding?**

No. Basic education funds from the state and federal government provide about 90% of the cost of basic education. The funds requested through this levy represent about 9% of the proposed budget for the next four (4) years. When the incentive funds from the state are factored in, the impact on the budget is 12%.

**What are co-curricular or extracurricular programs?**

These include drama, musicals, the swim program, athletic programs and competitions, performing arts and marching bands, choir, orchestra and other after school activities. These funds also supplement the staff funded by the state to support academic and social emotional support for all students. The levy funds make it possible to provide these opportunities to all students regardless of income.

*More Information is available at [www.asd5.org](http://www.asd5.org)*



## Ballot dates to remember

**Jan. 23-24** -- Ballots scheduled to be mailed, according to county auditor

**Jan. 26** -- Start of the 18-day voting period

**Feb. 5** -- Last day to register to vote

**Feb. 13** -- Deadline to drop off or mail ballots

Mailed ballots must be postmarked on or before Feb. 13 to be counted.

## Annual review of sexual health materials set for Jan. 17

The Teaching and Learning Department invites parents with questions about the District's sexual health curriculum to a meeting from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17, at the Stewart Building, 900 Cleveland Street, to furnish parents an opportunity to preview the HIV prevention and sexual health education program. All student instructional materials will be available for your inspection.

Following a preview of the materials, parents who wish to have their child excused from the HIV prevention program will sign a release form. State law provides that a parent or guardian must





attend such a meeting before they can have their child or legal ward excused from participation in the HIV prevention program.

A letter with additional information is being sent to parents. The letter is posted on the District website in both English and Spanish [here](#).

## Save the Date

Aberdeen Bobcat Music Boosters

### 34th Annual Jazz Auction & Dinner

SCHOLARSHIP  
FUNDRAISER

January 27th, 2024  
Aberdeen High School Commons  
5-8 PM

More Info & Items

# January 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat / Sun
1  <b>New Year's Day Holiday</b>	2  School Resumes  School Board 6 pm	3	4	5	6 7
8  Robert Gray PTO	9  Music Boosters 7 pm Bobcat Boosters 7 pm Stevens PTO 6 pm	10  <b>Collaboration Day Early Release</b>	11  Central Park PTO 6 pm McDermoth PTO 6 pm RGray Pacific Science Center	12	13 14
15  <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</b>	16  School Board 6 pm	17  McDermoth Winter Concert Gr. K-2, Auditorium 6:30 pm	18  AHS/Miller Jazz Festival Grays Harbor College GEAR UP Family Night 6 pm McDermoth Winter Concert Gr. 3-5 6:30 pm	19	20 21
22	23	24  RGray Winter Concert Gr. 3-5, Auditorium 6:30 pm	25  AJ West Assembly CPark Winter Concert Auditorium 6:30 pm AHS Finals	26  Central Park Assembly Robert Gray Smooth Sailing AHS Finals/Early Release	27 High School Solo/ Ensemble Contest Music Booster's Jazz Dinner & Auction 5 pm 28 <b>MILLER 100th Doors open at 1:30 pm</b>
29	30	31  Stevens Assembly	Check school calendars for dates and times of Elementary Concerts this month.		



## Harbor Youth Soccer Spring Soccer Registration **NOW OPEN**



**U9 (born 2016) and up:**

**\$40**

Spring Season games for U9 and up begin April 13 and end by June 15th

**Academy (born 2017, 2018 or 2019): \$25**

Just like in Fall, Academy takes place on Tuesdays & Thursdays, beginning April 16 and ending May 23rd

**Registration closes February 18th!**

Teams are formed by late-February with practices beginning by mid-March

**More info and Registration online [harborsoccer.com](http://harborsoccer.com)**

This event/activity is not sponsored by Aberdeen School District. The District assumes no responsibility for the conduct of, or safety of, the event/activity. In consideration for the privilege of distributing these materials, the School District shall be held harmless from any cause of action, claim, or petition filed in any court or administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials, including all cost, attorney's fee, judgements or awards.





# ABERDEEN LITTLE LEAGUE

## 2024 Signups!

It's that time of year again! Aberdeen Little League is having their annual Signups.

Signups will be online starting December 1, 2023 with two in person sign ups located at the Little League concession stand.

When you signup online you will be able to create an account, add your child, select a program, fill out most of the required paperwork. You will still need to print and fill out the medical release and school enrollment forms and upload them.

If you have already created an account online with us in the past, you will still need to sign in and enter your child into an available program.

Please Visit <https://www.aberdeenlittleleague.org> to sign up.

### Signup Dates Online:

December 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

### Signup Dates In Person:

January 20, 2024 – 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

January 24, 2024 – 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

### Player Fees:

T-Ball (ages 4-6) \$50

Coach Pitch (6-8) \$50

Minors (8-11) \$100

Majors (10-12) \$100

We accept credit card or cash and will NOT accept checks for registration fees.

### Tryout Dates:

Tryouts will be held at the Bishop Building. Time slots are based on last name.

Minors – February 6, 2024 A-L 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm; M-Z 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Majors – February 7, 2024 A-L 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm; M-Z 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**Please watch our Aberdeen Little League facebook page for updated information.**



## WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL

## Apply now: Simpler, more generous 2024-25 financial aid applications now available

A family of four making up to \$120,500 may be eligible for aid.

Financial aid applications for this year's graduating seniors are now available, although students and families should expect some technical issues for the time being. And it will take longer than usual for colleges to get and process applications and respond with financial aid awards.

Applications were delayed this year as updates were made to improve the FAFSA and WASFA forms and increase aid eligibility. In Washington, there are two ways to apply for financial aid. You should only complete one application—the FAFSA or the WASFA:

## Get your game tickets online or at the door

The Athletic Department is pleased to introduce online ticket sales to sporting events through GoFan. You can still buy tickets at the gate. Athletic Director John Crabb said the e-ticket option is





available for all home sporting events. Patrons can buy season tickets or individual tickets.

Access the online ticket site using the QR code at left or by visiting [here](#).

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## Stay in touch

- Superintendent Jeffrey Thake, [jthake@asd5.org](mailto:jthake@asd5.org)
- Business Office, Elyssa Louderback, [elouderback@asd5.org](mailto:elouderback@asd5.org)
- Human Resources, Christi Sayres, [csayres@asd5.org](mailto:csayres@asd5.org)
- Special Education, Rick Bates, [rbates@asd5.org](mailto:rbates@asd5.org)
- Career & Technical Education, Lynn Green, [lgreen@asd5.org](mailto:lgreen@asd5.org)
- Teaching, Learning & Technology, Traci Sandstrom, [tsandstrom@asd5.org](mailto:tsandstrom@asd5.org)
- Food Services, Jaime Matisons, [jmatisons@asd5.org](mailto:jmatisons@asd5.org)

## School Office Hours

### A.J. West Elementary School

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- (360) 538-2130 / Principal Nani Villarreal

### Central Park Elementary School

- Office Hours: 8:15 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- (360) 538-2170 / Principal Ruth Erwin-Svoboda

### McDermoth Elementary School

- Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- (360) 538-2120 / Principal Mindi Hammill

### Robert Gray Elementary School

- Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- (360) 538-2140 / Principal Sherri Northington

### Stevens Elementary School

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- (360) 538-2150 / Principal Jamie Stotler

### Harbor Learning Center

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- (360) 538-2180 / Principal Lisa Griebel

### Hopkins Preschool

- Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- (360) 538-2190 / Principal Darby Carroll

### Miller Junior High School

- Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- (360) 538-2100 / Principal John Meers

### Aberdeen High School

- Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- (360) 538-2040 General / Principal Aaron Roiko
- (360) 538-2060 Attendance Line

### 2023-2024 Aberdeen School District Calendar

August 2023					February 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
7	8	9	10	11	5	6*	7√	8	9
14	15*	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	19	20*	21	22	23
28	29	30	31		26	27	28	29	
02/180					113/180				
September 2023					March 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
				1					1
4	5*	6	7	8	4	5*	6√	7	8
11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15
18	19*	20	21	22	18	19*	20	21	22
25	26	27√	28	29	25	26	27	28	29
22/180					133/180				
October 2023					April 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
					1	2	3	4	5
2	3*	4	5	6	8	9	10√	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	15	16*	17	18	19
16	17*	18	19	20	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25√	26	27	29	30			
30	31				150/180				
44/180					May 2024				
November 2023					M	T	W	TH	F
M	T	W	TH	F					
		1	2	3			1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10	6	7*	8	9	10
13	14*	15	16	17	13	14	15√	16	17
20	21	22	23	24	20	21*	22	23	24
27	28	29	30		27	28	29	30	31
62/180					171/180				
December 2023					June 2024				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
				1	3	4*	5	6	7
4	5	6√	7	8	10	11	12	13	14
11	12*	13	14	15	17	18*	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	180/180				
73/180					July 2024				
January 2024					M	T	W	TH	F
M	T	W	TH	F	1	2*	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12
8	9	10√	11	12	15	16*	17	18	19
15	16*	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26
22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
29	30	31							
94/180									

**August 2023**

28 Professional Development

29 Professional Development

30 First Day of School

**September 2023**

04 Labor Day--No School

**October 2023**

**November 2023**

10 Veterans Day Observed - No School

22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 2023**

15 Early Release

18-29 Winter Break

**January 2024**

01 Winter Break continues

15 Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday--No School

**February 2024**

19 Presidents Day Holiday -No School

20 Professional Development--No School

**March 2024**

15 Weather Makeup Day, If Needed

**April 2024**

1-5 Spring Break

**May 2024**

24 Weather Makeup Day, If Needed

27 Memorial Day Holiday

**June 2024**

13 Last Day of School / Early Release

19 Juneteenth

\* Denotes Board meeting

√ Collaboration Days:

09/27 10/25

12/6 01/10

02/07 03/06

04/10 05/15

School Board 02/21/23 Updated 09/19 School Board mtgs

## Office of the Education Ombuds

The Washington State Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds (OEO) was created to help families navigate the education system.

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The Aberdeen School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Christi Sayres, Title IX Coordinator and Civil rights Compliance Coordinator, 216 North G St., Aberdeen, WA 98520; (360) 538-2222; [csayres@asd5.org](mailto:csayres@asd5.org); Dr.



**Aberdeen**  
School District



Richard Bates, Section 504/ADA Coordinator, 216 North G St., Aberdeen, WA 98520; (360) 538-2017; [rbates@asd5.org](mailto:rbates@asd5.org).



## ASD5 News

ASD5 is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

