

SUMMER 2019

Sequim School District No. 323

Your Sequim Schools

Engage, Empower, Thrive

MISSION:

Our community inspires and prepares each student to thrive.

VISION:

In connection with our community, the Sequim School District empowers staff to inspire hope and provide flexible, innovative learning opportunities in a safe and respectful environment so each student thrives.

**TOTAL
ENROLLMENT:**
June 2019
2,735

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SUMMER DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday, 8am-3pm



Non-Discrimination Statement:

Sequim 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: Title IX Coordinators, Civil Rights Compliance Coordinators: Randy Hill, rhill@sequimschools.org 503 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382, 360-582-3261, and for Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Matt Duchow, 503 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382, 360-582-3401, mduchow@sequimschools.org



John Koch, USCGC Active, flew in from deployment to surprise his daughter, Minzsie Koch, and escort her to her diploma.



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What's Important Now

SPEECH MADE BY SUPERINTENDENT GARY NEAL — 2019 GRADUATION CEREMONY, JUNE 7, 2019

In 1989 I got to listen to a keynote speaker at a small school in Spokane – Gonzaga University. The speaker was Lou Holtz, retired professional football coach. That day, Holtz talked about the concept of WIN, which really stuck with me. WIN stands for 'What's Important Now'. As I've followed his career, he has become a renowned motivational speaker and author. In one of his publications, he identifies three rules to live life by, that I feel are important to share with the Class of 2019.

1) **Do right** - Just do the right thing. We have all done things we wish we hadn't, but you can't go through life with an albatross around your neck saying, 'I made a mistake'. Say sorry, make amends, and move on. Wherever we are is because of the choices we have made. We can't control where we land.

2) **Do everything to the best of your ability** - not everyone will be famous, but everyone can do their best, all the time. Most importantly, only you will know if you have given it your best effort. Always, always be true to yourself.

3) **Show people you care** - Ask people 'how can I help you?' 'how can I assist?' and mean it. Have a deep down, burning desire to help people.

Holtz says he can get by in life with these three rules because all of the people you will meet along the way will have the same three basic questions.

1) **Can I trust you?** Without trust there is no relationship. Without trust, you don't have a chance. People must trust you, so you must embody trustworthiness. Trust is easy, trust does not

cost anything. Trust will determine how people perceive you.

2) **Are you committed to excellence?** You may end up working for a large corporation, or you may end up working for yourself. Regardless, you need to understand and believe in your vision and the opportunities you have to offer people. A key to excellence is your choice to be true to your promises. People may appear to be impressed with how much you know but will ultimately be more drawn to your honesty and excellence.

3) **Do you care about me?** Caring about people is not about making their life easy. Caring about people is not just being a good friend. Caring about people is enabling them to be successful. Are you willing to seek first to under-

stand others and then be understood?

Holtz concludes that if you follow these three simple rules in life, your self-confidence will grow. You will have no doubt about who you are and what you represent. You will lift everyone around you and put others before your own needs. These three rules hold relationships, organizations, and communities together.

So, Class of 2019, you have survived the Smarter Balance Assessment, you have survived Core 24, and most importantly, you have survived Snowmageddon. You can survive anything. Congratulations to each of you and thank you for leaving this school district a better place.



To watch the entire Class of 2019 Graduation Ceremony or to view photos, visit: <http://sequimschools.org/departments/communications/graduations>

Sequim School District No. 323
503 North Sequim Avenue, Sequim, WA 98382

Board of Directors

Brandino Gibson, Vice President
Robin Henrikson
Brian Kuh, President
Heather Short
James Stoffer

Leadership

Gary Neal, Superintendent
Jennifer Maughan, Assistant Superintendent

Student Representatives

Damon Little, Senior '19
Payton Sturm, Junior '20

SEQUIM SCHOOL DISTRICT CITIZENS

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Thanks a Thousand!

**SPEECH MADE BY PRINCIPAL SHAWN LANGSTON
2019 GRADUATION CEREMONY JUNE 7, 2019**

Ladies and gentlemen welcome the graduation ceremony for the Sequim High School Class of 2019!! Please rise for the playing of the National Anthem by our award-winning band.

Please remain standing and join me in a moment of silence for two people who we wish were here tonight, **Robby Streett** and **Dana Minard**.

Congratulations to the Class of 2019 – You made it!! You are my favorite class this year. I love a Sequim High School Graduation for two reasons. Number one is that it is a student drive ceremony. You're going to see and hear the talent that is up here. Number two, it's a formal ceremony. We practice three times as long as the actual ceremony is tonight, and these guys were amazing yesterday and today. I shared with them why it's a formal ceremony and why we all love to see it. I'm proud of that and we want to continue that tradition. Sequim has been around for over 100 years, so we are going to keep that going.

At this time, I would like to introduce a couple people — School Board Directors Jim Stoffer and Brandino Gibson and Superintendent Gary Neal. I would also like to thank Gary Neal for his service to the Sequim School District and wish him luck in his next adventure.

My lovely wife stumbled across a podcast about a book by A.J. Jacobs called Thanks a Thousand. Mr. Jacobs wanted to live in a place of gratitude and had a simple idea to personally thank every person involved in making his morning cup of coffee – I mean EVERY person. His quest literally took him around the world to thank all kinds of people responsible for that single cup of coffee including architects, biologists, designers, miners and even goat herders. What he realized in his quest was a reminder that gratitude can be so powerful because it allowed him to focus on the hundreds of things that go right every day instead of the three or four that go wrong. He cited one study from Scientific American that found gratitude is the single best predictor of well-being and good relationships. He had 5 Big Takeaways from his adventure:

1. Look Up – Look up from your phones, thank you. Look up when you're buying you cup of coffee and thank the person who sold it to you.

2. Smell the Roses, Dirt and Fertilizer – I love that. My father-in-law often tags his emails with “stop and smell that roses”. In fact, my daughter who is here tonight, used that as the theme of her 2008 valedictorian speech.

3. Find the Hidden Masterpiece – They are all around us and it's our job to see what's right with the world.

4. Fake it Till you Feel it – My Link Leaders know this one well. The author cited that by the end of the project it almost became a chore to thank all the people he needed to thank but by faking it until he felt it, he ultimately did feel it. He was amazed how the power of his actions literally shaped his thinking.

5. Practice 6 Degrees of Gratitude – His point here was by digging deeper to thank everyone for that cup of coffee, he realized how interconnected we all are.

That got me thinking about the power of gratitude as a spark to action. I am grateful. I'm grateful for this community that has embraced and encouraged the Class of 2019 and supported them with nearly \$400,000 in local scholarships to pursue the next chapter in their lives.

I'm grateful for the amazing staff at SHS who have nurtured these students – pushed and pulled, and even nagged – yesterday, this morning – to get them to this spot tonight.

I'm grateful for 2019 **WIAA Boys Track State Champions!!** Oh yeah, and the fast kid named **Murray Bingham** who's the WIAA 800 Meter State Champion.

I'm grateful for the Class of 2019 that has not only overcome



Staff and graduates observe a moment of silence for SHS teacher, Dana Minard and SHS student, Robby Streett.



SHS Teacher, Dana Minard, in his Culinary Arts class. Minard passed away April 21, 2019. Photo taken by Jim Heintz.



Robby Streett, an SHS student who would have graduated with the class of 2019, passed away July 20, 2018.

the increase in graduation credits from 22 to the CORE 24, they will be setting an SHS record for the least amount of days to graduate, thanks to **Snowmageddon 2019** – we see you next week seniors.

This also got me to thinking about this class, so I asked a number of seniors “WHO, during the last 13 years of your education, are you grateful for, for getting you to this spot tonight”.

When I asked **Caleb DeMott**, I didn't even finish the question and he enthusiastically said, Mr. Lorentzen!! Mr. Lorentzen is not here tonight as Caleb said to me, “He's at his Daughter's graduation.” Caleb's still mad at him.

Hunter Wells, who happens to be attending the finest institution in all of America, Pacific Lutheran University, said that it has to be mom, but quickly added that Mr. O'Mera has been a huge influence on him as well.

Jacob Denny didn't even have to think about when citing Ms. V – thanks for being there Ms. Vander Velde – don't worry Jacob, she feels the same way about you.

I talked with our very own Mr. Rapelje about the idea of gratitude and what he's grateful for from the Class of 2019. In usual Rap fashion he started with a funny answer. He said when he gets older, he knows he's going to be needing a bunch of surgeries – that old broken tail bone is going to come back to haunt him, and he's pretty certain there will be a bunch of doctors in this class. But then in real true Rap form, he emailed me the following:

Well you've really got me thinking now. As educators we often talk about the impact teachers can have on students, but we often neglect the important impacts students have on teachers.

One more thing I am grateful for from this class is that they inspired me to keep teaching. At the end of 2016, after 14 years of teaching, I was actively looking at doing something else. I was quite frankly burnt out. In the fall of 2016 I was greeted with the most energetic, thoughtful, scholarly, amazing group of sophomores in my chemistry classes. The students inspired me each day and reminded me how fun teaching can be. They made teaching fun again. So, what am I grateful for? I may not be teaching here if it wasn't for the class of 2019, and that is a fact!

Speaking of Rap, that's who **Maggie Van Dyken** cited as the

person she's grateful for, that and Damen Little. Those are two pretty outstanding men of character. I'm grateful that Maggie finally let me sit in the family Porsche and I guess I'm sorry that dad hurt his back this week, so he had to drive the truck.

One of my favorite answers came from a sweet girl who sat on our front porch when she was four years old picking out cowboy boots to ride horses – **Allison Van De Wege**. When I asked Ally who she was grateful for, she simply said, ‘herself.’

Ms. Shingleton, who has her own speedy graduate tonight had this to say about her gratitude for the Class of 2019:

With much gratitude, I thank the class of 2019 because my favorite PE classes EVER were my freshman classes four years ago – full of energy, compassion and fun. I have gratitude for those that appear dressed as a T-Rex, **Fischer Jensen**. Others that never stop smiling, **Jacob Pyeatt**. And the ones that call me “family” just as I call you “family”, **Shayli Shuman**, **Kaitlyn Viada**, **Riley Martin**, **Brenden Jack**. I am grateful that my own son, **Alec Shingleton**, got to share his high school career with this outstanding class of 2019.

Porter Funston is grateful for her Aunt Christine who flew all the way from New York to be here today – thanks for coming Aunt Christine!

I had to ask **Rigoberto Rex** who he was grateful for. Of course, it should have been me or his mom, but no. He didn't hesitate when he said the name of his very first friend from Sequim in 2nd grade – **Tommy Danger Hall!**

Damien Cundiff plans on going into law enforcement and he's grateful that he was able to engage in so many thoughtful, deep conversations with Mr. Lippert.

Another young lady that I've had the privilege to know for most of her life is **Maddison Green**. When I asked Maddie who she was grateful for in getting her here tonight – she thought about it and said her grandpa. Don't cry out there mom.

Morgan Drollinger is grateful that things have worked out like they have and for all the things her boyfriend, **Andrew Tucker**, has done for her.

KP the VP – that's **Katie Potter** for all you non SHS-ers is grateful for **Isabelle Hugoniot's** mom and dad. She said it's nice to have a second mom and dad.

I have some sad news for our staff though, Mr. Fili is retiring. Mr. Fili is actually **Derek Fili**, who isn't retiring, although that's what he's telling our staff. Derek is graduating tonight and he's grateful for his grandma and Mr. Steve Boots. True story – Mark Willis did think Derek was a substitute teacher for the first two years he was at the high school.

Finally, I asked Mr. VDW what he was grateful for from this class. He emailed me 5 pages that I'd like to read now. No, seriously, he did send a bunch, so I will just give the highlights:

I'm grateful for **Ian Parker** who accrued 81 tardies to my first period calculus class, yet always lifted the mood with his presence and smile. I'm grateful for **Rudy Franco**, **Nathalie Torres Mendoza**, and **Amanda He** who have embodied determination by never giving up in my classes despite the challenges and obstacles.

Every job has its hills and valleys and teaching is no exception. I had experienced a rough patch over the last few years of teaching that left me disheartened, looking for a way out, and ready to throw in the towel. This group of students has completely rejuvenated my passion for my vocation. One of our goals as teachers is to inspire our students towards success. These young men and women are exceptional students, incredible athletes and exemplary leaders. And they somehow manage to do it all – and do it extremely well. They have inspired me to become the best teacher I can be.

So, Class of 2019, I encourage you take a walk on the gratitude trail. Look up and see what's right with the world. Live a life a gratitude. We are grateful for the mark you've left on Sequim High School and we can't wait to see what you'll do next. Who knows, one of you may be operating on Mr. Rapelje down the road. For all that you've done for us, Thanks a Thousand and congratulations!

U-Turn Award Presented to Jacob Denny

**SPEECH MADE BY
PRINCIPAL SHAWN LANGSTON,
2019 GRADUATION CEREMONY JUNE 7, 2019**

Sequim High School created the U-Turn award in 2005. Motivational speaker, Keith Davis, had spoken to us that year about how he was able to turn his life around. During this presentation, he had a bent piece of rebar to represent the turn he made in life, and to show how strong he is. I kept this bar in my office. Later that year, Bill O'Brien, a former teacher, told me that the bar reminded him of a 'U' like a 'U-Turn'. He thought it would cool to create an annual award for a senior who was able to 'turn it around'. Thus, the beginning of this award. This year, Keith Davis returned to our campus for the MLK Jr. assembly and was blown away when he saw the U-Turn plaque outside my office with all the years of U-Turn award winners listed.

Now, we had something happen this year that has never happened before in the history of the U-Turn Award. We had a unanimous winner! sent out an email to our staff asking for potential candidates. Usually, I get 5 or 6 names that we then talk about an ultimately decide who will receive the award. This year- one name. I remember this person well when they were a freshman. They probably didn't make the best choices, but they were fabulous, in fact they were part of Fab 46 group. The 2019 U-Turn Award winner is Mr. Jacob Denny!

Earlier in the program, I talked about who Jacob was grateful for and he said Ms. Vander Velde. She summarized Jacob's journey perfectly:

Jacob Denny is a student who has overcome extraordinary



challenges in his life. I have had the honor of working with Jacob over his four years at Sequim High School, and I have watched an angry, disillusioned, disengaged boy grow into a respectful, hard-working, articulate young man.

Jacob was supported by many people at Sequim High School and within the Sequim community. While each person shares responsibility in encouraging Jacob along his path, Jacob chose to accept the support of those people. Jacob chose to take AP classes when many of his friends were dropping out of school. Jacob chose to use the road blocks as stepping stones to a higher path. Jacob chose to believe in himself, believe in his supporters when they said he was capable of more than just mediocrity. Jacob Denny chose to take the path less traveled and is standing here today in a graduation robe with a bright future in front of him because of the difficult choices he made.

He should be very proud of himself. We are very proud of him.



Superintendent Neal addresses the class of 2019.



Superintendent Neal, School Board Director Brandino Gibson, and School Board Director Jim Stoffer hand Student School Board Representative, Damon Little, his diploma.

SEQUIM OPTIONS SCHOOL GRADUATES 67!

This year, Sequim Options School (SOS) excelled when it supported 67 students, or 35%, of the 191 2019 Sequim High School graduates. The Class of 2019 is the first Sequim School District class required to graduate with 24 credits, as opposed to 20 previously, leaving little room for error. With the dedicated and compassionate SOS educators on their team, Michelle Mahitka, Amanda Westman, and Kayana Harrison, these students were able to recover and even accelerate credit retrieval, ensuring they walked across the stage on June 7th! SOS even has 3 more students that they are supporting in potentially graduating with the class of 2019 before school is out in mid-June. Great work SOS!



SOS End of Year Celebration May 22, 2019



Senior ASB Team - Maggie Van Dyken, Liam Payne, Arlene Law, Isabelle Hugoniot, Damon Little, Allison Van De Wehe, Ashley Rosales, Shayil Schuman

VALEDICTORIANS SPEECH

**SPEECH MADE BY
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN
GRADUATION CEREMONY JUNE 7, 2019**

Blake Wiker:

Good evening everyone. First of all, congratulations to the Class of 2019. I am speaking for all my fellow valedictorians when I say it is an honor to be speaking in front of our amazing class today. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us". Today, to embody this notion, each of us are going to speak about lessons and character qualities that we believe are valuable in school and in life.

For me, one of the most important character qualities one can have is grit. Grit is hard work and determination, passion and perseverance. It is sticking to your goals when you encounter obstacles and it is the driving force behind success. Through my four years, I strived to be the grittiest person I could be, both in my school work and in my sports. I never let a difficult test, or a missed putt, stop me from achieving my goals. Grit is also something that everyone on this stage exemplifies. High school is a journey that requires tenacity and fortitude, and we all rose to the challenge. In Mr. Van de Weghe's classroom, and in many others around campus, I frequently found classmates completing complex math problems, discussing essays, or cranking code until well after 4 o'clock. As our time in high school comes to an end and our new adventure awaits, we must continue to work hard, be determined, and have grit. There is a quote that says "There is no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs". So, Class of 2019, when you are climbing those stairs, remember to be gritty.

Arlene Law:

As a 6th grader, I sat in those metal bleachers, watching my brother stand at this very podium, presenting his own valedictorian speech. I distinctly remember a mother and her young son sitting in front of me, the son leaning over and asking,

"Mom, what's a valedictorian?" and the mother whispering in reply, "Honey, those are the smart people". That simple phrase planted a seed in my head: I wanted to be a valedictorian. I wanted my high school career to show that I was smart. But high school isn't about honing just one trait. It's about defining and refining all of your traits so that you can become a well-rounded person. And what I didn't hear that day, and instead have had to learn, is that there are a bunch of different types of smart. There is the ace-the-test-but-never-study kind of smart. There is the mechanical kind of smart, a social kind of smart, artsy smart, studious smart, and the list goes on.

In order to become the type of person who can see this, the one who becomes a well-rounded individual, you have to have perspective. Perspective is attitude. It's a point of view. Most of all, it's a mindset. During my 4 years at SHS I had to have a growth mindset, to learn to adapt, to have a strong work ethic, and to advocate for myself. That's how I landed here at this podium today.

As we all go our separate ways and branch out into the world, I beg of you to open your eyes. Broaden your perspective. It can shape the way you think and act and can greatly make a difference in both your life, as well as others. Today, high school will be officially over - for some it seemed nearly impossible to make it here. But, we are here. So, have the lens which can help you to see that at-

taining your goals is possible, no matter where you come from or the obstacles that you face. Bask in your everchanging perspective and the infinite possibilities that it allows you to not only see but grab ahold of.

Maggie Van Dyken:

Let me ask a question - how many times have you failed in your life? Probably more than you'd like to say, and those moments probably aren't your proudest right? Well we all know the feeling when we're asked a question in class and we respond with the complete wrong answer! After, you must have felt embarrassed and stupid. I'm sure you all remember that feeling, you might even remember the specific question that was asked.

In my life I have failed on multiple accounts, not turning in my homework on time, forgetting to do a project, losing a friend, or even when you and your lab partners get over 100% error- which is kind of impossible, but really anything is possible in Raps class!

So, why are these moments so important? These defining memories give us purpose, a purpose to strive for a better tomorrow where those mistakes won't happen again. So, what if we all mess up on a question every so often? The memory of the embarrassment and failure will forever be ingrained in our minds and help us to grow. If we always had the right answer and never saw anything but accomplishments in our life then, when we go on to college or the work force or wherever our paths may lead us, it is going to be so much harder to accept and learn from the defeat. Instead of falling down we need to be able to fail so we are able to rise to the occasion and build our future.

So, what if I missed a homework assignment? Maybe that night it was more important to spend time with my family watching a movie because my sisters who live in Spokane and Montana wanted to watch Inside Out. Now, I'm not saying don't do your homework just to watch Netflix because trust me, I am so behind in Riverdale and Greys I'm never going to catch up! But this is your future that you are shaping. Take the opportunity to learn to fail so you can succeed later in life.

As J.K. Rowling wisely said, "It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all". So, don't be afraid to push the limits and test the boundaries because we were meant to fall so we could learn to pick ourselves back up again.

Liam Payne:

As we all are gathered here, soon to be heading off into the world to push those boundaries and test those limits Maggie just spoke about, I would like to pose a question to each and every one of you: What's your foundation? And more importantly, is your foundation going to last?

A house that's built on rock can last for centuries, but a house that's built on sand is doomed from the start. Are your values going to hold up in the world? Where is your hope found? Where have you placed your identity? Everything we do from here on out in our lives is going to build on these very questions. So, we must ensure that we stand on an eternal and unwavering base.

Now, I consider myself a pretty optimistic and positive guy. But what happens when we and up with a career ending injury, we lose someone important in our lives, or a robot ends up taking the job we studied our whole lives for? (Thankfully my



The Magnificent Seven: Emily Bundy, Arlene Law, William (Liam) Payne, Elizabeth Sweet, Maggie Van Dyken, Sean Weber, and Blake Wiker.

foundation's not in comedy) Is that storm going to make our lives fall apart, or are we going to be able to stand strong?

We must build our lives on something that will stand firm despite the trials of life. I have found only this foundation in Christ, but all I ask of you, as my last words to y'all before we leave today, is to build your life on the rock and not the sand.

Emily Bundy:

It is my foundational belief that the key to a successful life incorporates integrity and kindness. Throughout high school, we are always focused on the numbers- our grades, our GPA, what we place in sports meets. Our aspirations drive us to become who we want to be and we focus on the steps we must achieve in order to reach our goals. But the true success in life lies in your desire and pursuit to become the best version of yourself.

Integrity is defined as the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness. Integrity defines us - who we are, what we believe, and where we want to go. Each of us embodies a different sense of integrity, our personal experiences shaping the portrayal of our pursuits. Integrity is about trust, sincerity, and decency, but it is also anchored in being strong in your convictions; being you.

Mister Rogers once said, "The greatest gift you ever give is your honest self". Just as all of you have blessed Sequim High School with your time and talents, share yourselves with the world. We all have experienced moments throughout our high school tenure that have tested our confidence, but we must embrace these challenges with the courage in our own individual convictions- our integrity. A part of having integrity is to be true to yourself, deciding how to act in any situation based on your inner moral compass.

For me, it has resided in trying to choose kind in any given situation. I know you heard choose kind a lot around our school this year, and you can thank me for that, but it really matters. Kindness always matters. I found this quote a couple years ago and I now use it as a motto to live by, "When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind". We are at the end of high school, but we are at the beginning of something else, something wonderful - the rest of our lives. Choose to live your life as a mirror of your integral and best self. Embrace integrity and choose kindness.

Elizabeth Sweet:

To me, being a Valedictorian doesn't necessarily indicate intellect or talent, it's a title with glorified connotation, a badge to validate struggle. Striving for relative perfection really is constant stress. The expectations of others often dictated my actions. I've internalized accomplishments as equitable substitutes for true happiness and ingrained in my mind a rigid dichotomy of succeed or fail. These traits tended to amplify any failure and made this year personally demoralizing.

After years of dedication, preparation, and discipline, I applied to my dream school, Stanford University, pouring everything into my application and believing I had to be enough. Stanford represented elite achievement, the epitome of success, validation, and vision. I was in fact rejected. This hurt deeply, closing a door on the future I had long envisioned.

Now, disappointment does linger. But with the passage of time, I have observed profound elements of my life to value. My friends, family, teachers, Knowledge Bowl team, track, band, and my future at the University of Washington have all reminded me that I have value and contribution to something greater than myself, and this accomplishment is more significant than what any college admissions board can tell me. I have learned to affirm my worth through self-validation, and to value individuality and personal diversity over any system of conformity that confines success to any singular model or pathway.

As Socrates put so eloquently, "Education is a kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel". Our educational journeys are more than homework and test scores, or where we go to college. They're about growth and pursuit of our passions and self-understanding, in a low-risk environment where we are nurtured, not demanded, to experience and experiment.

Here's my advice: take rejection in stride, live boldly, and enjoy every moment. For we are far more than any single ambition or event; we are boundless.

Sean Weber:

There are issues at every level of our lives. Nationally, this generation will likely see the adjusted national debt soar past 100 trillion dollars, and no that's not a typo. In Seattle, City Council members strive to make the city a beacon of progression, and

VALEDICTORIANS SPEECH

yet homelessness grows by the day with no real solutions. All the way to the micro-chasm of our beloved town of Sequim to grow and produce, and a pressure on its youth to 'make it out'. However, just because issues exist today does not mean this needs to be the status quo for the future.

Change doesn't come easy, but besides free cone day at Dairy Queen, how many good things come easy? This is the class of 2019. We've survived 6 curriculum changes and were the first group to be mandated with 24 high school credits. This group of students you see before you, are full of inquisitive scholars, dedicated athletes, and eager minds ready to demand change, manifest progress, cultivate kindness, and spark joy. Underfunded resources aside, we have clubs winning awards and had an earth-shattering year for sports. This includes 16 of our 21 offered sport seasons making it to state, resulting in two state championship titles and proving we can make the most of very little.

As we step out of this beautifully rural, compassionate, and budding community to conquer the world, we encourage everyone here today to examine the values and qualities that define us and the biases that restrain us, keeping in mind some wisdom of Albert Einstein: "A ship is always safe at shore, but that is not what it is built for". This is the group that takes action, embraces risks to tackle challenges, and ultimately push boundaries to expand our viewpoints. And so, to the class of 2019 and all future Sequim High School graduates, get out there and do something you care about, maybe even something you think you might care about, because change starts with you.

Blake: So, to the class of 2019, as we begin this new chapter in our lives, let's remember to be gritty

Arlene: Broaden your perspective

Maggie: Don't be afraid to fail

Liam: Build on the rock

Emily: Embrace integrity and choose kindness

Elizabeth: Be boundless

Sean: And take action.

All: Congratulation Class of 2019!

Student Elected Speaker

**SPEECH MADE BY TOMMY DANGER HALL
GRADUATION CEREMONY, JUNE 7, 2019**

mán'k'w u? ʔáy'ʔa? ti nistáči, šaʔšúʔl.
ʔáy'sk'áci ʔáynək'w, nəscáyaʔčəʔ.
Ya Whoostʔsten cn sna, Hall nəhíymət.
čʔstətiləm nex'łáyəm cn, from Sequim.

Hello, welcome. I'm glad you're all here. My name is Tommy Hall from the Hall family and my tribe is Jamestown S'Klallam from Sequim. I'd like to thank my class for electing me for this opportunity to speak. I'd also like to thank the administration, staff, and this whole community for their support.

I'm going to start right away with a quote from *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*:
"It's easy to feel hopeful on a beautiful day like today, but there will be dark days ahead of us too, and there will be days where you feel all alone, and that's when hope is needed most. Keep it alive. No matter how buried it gets, or lost you feel, you must promise me, that you will hold on to hope and keep it alive. We have to be greater than what we suffer. My wish for you, is to become hope. People need that. I know it feels like we're saying goodbye, but we will carry a piece of each other into everything that we do next, to remind us of who we are, and of who we're meant to be".

Growing up with everyone in this class has truly been a blessing. I remember some people saying what they want to be when they grow up. For example, Rigo wanted to be an elementary school teacher. Thomas wanted to be an architect. Kyler wanted to be an underwear model. Some people wanted to grow up to be 33. I remember the moment of realization of what I wanted to be when I grew up. I jumped off the couch, ran to my mom and said, "MOM! I know what I want to be when I grow up! I want to be Spider-Man!" She told me, "Grow up Tommy. You graduate in a week".

This school is literally the best high school I've ever attended. To be fair, this is the only one I've attended. But that doesn't discredit the many opportunities that we have been given especially with some amazing teachers. Mr. Van de Weghe once said, "Tommy. You never pay attention, yet you understand everything". I think that's what he said, I wasn't listening. I love all the awards that are given out and all the records that we can break. This year, Sequim High School Class of 2019

has broken an insane record. Our entire class earns the U-Turn award for being the first class ever to have to come back AFTER we graduate. Coming back to school after you graduate is like dating your girlfriend or boyfriend after you've broken up...



One thing about me and my family. I am the last of 7 kids ... all 6 of my older siblings are Sequim High School graduates and a few of the staff members had the privilege to have all of them. So, take a breather faculty of Sequim High School. We have a whole new generation coming with 10 grandchildren and counting.

In my culture, totem poles can be used to celebrate people's and communities' accomplishments. What most people may think is the that the top of the totem pole is the most important and has the most honor, while the bottom is often looked over. But that's not true. The top of the totem pole is traditionally looked at as the hopes and dreams of your future, while the bottom of the totem pole is seen as the totem with the most honor. To construct a totem pole, you need a strong foundation. To finish the top of your totem pole which are your life's achievements, you need to start from your foundation. High school is a great foundation and can set you up to accomplish what you desire in your life.

You have so many people in your life who want you to reach these goals, no matter what path and which way you go. I told my grandfather that I wanted to join the circus. He was thrilled. He really thought I said I wanted to join the service. My grandfather, whom I'm honored is here tonight, is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam and Korean wars, so course he was thrilled! At the time of his retirement in 1978, he was the highest ranking, full blooded Native American to have ever served in the US armed forces.

What I'm trying to say is, no matter where you go, and who you decide to be, you will always have support from those around you. Reach the top of your totem pole.

I'll leave you with a quote by Denzel Washington. He said, "Nothing in life is worthwhile unless you take risks. Fall forward. Every failed experiment is one step closer to success". Congratulations Class of 2019, we did it!

Faculty Elected Speaker

**SPEECH MADE BY ISABELLE HUGONIOT
2019 GRADUATION CEREMONY, JUNE 7, 2019**

Good evening! First, I would like to thank teachers, parents and guardians, students, and the community as a whole, for coming to support your outgoing class of 2019. Teachers, thank you so much for your dedication, and helping us to get where we are today — graduating with all 24 credits! Parents and guardians, you really are troopers. Thank you for all of the car rides back and forth to sports practices and activities, and when we got those sweet, sweet keys our sophomore year, thank you for staying up late waiting for us to get home safely. Underclassmen, I think we're leaving SHS in good hands. And finally, to the community of Sequim- thank you so much for your endless support and generosity towards us these past four years.

I have learned so many important lessons in high school, but two of them have stuck out to me: the power of conversation and the power of self-confidence. In high school, it can be easy to fall into a routine. Wake up, scroll through Instagram for ten minutes, get dressed, brush your teeth, brush your hair (maybe), and then you're out the door. At school, we have the same six classes every day, then we go to sports practice or a club meeting, head home, do homework (maybe), watch some T.V., and go to bed. In the routine of the physical life, it can be easy to let your mind fall dormant, to stop thinking deeply.

I've had the privilege of having incredible teachers and friends throughout the past four years who have woken my mind and challenged me to think deeply about my core values. As we all step into our futures, we must examine ourselves and discover what our core values are. What do you stand for? What are you passionate about? What do you believe and why do you believe it? I challenge you all to think deeply about these questions. All of our lives, we have lived more or less in the public-school system, and now we are going to be entering into



Isabelle Hugoniot hugs Mr. Heintz before receiving her diploma.

so many different environments, where the ideals and perspectives that we've grown up with may be challenged. So, know your values, and know what you stand for. And after that, don't be afraid to listen.

One of my favorite artists Michael Lipsey said, "you need to step outside your culture to see the shackles it has placed on your thinking". This is not to say that the culture of Sequim, or high school for that matter, have been a 'prison for our mind' or that it's corrupted our thinking; it's just different than the cultures we will be stepping into in our new walks of life. To me, this quote means we should be open to the different opinions and viewpoints that we may come across. I attended baccalaureate last Sunday, and one of the speakers phrased it well when he said that we should have a firm inside formed by our core values and beliefs, and then a soft exterior formed by our love and respect for others. So, naturally this made me think of an avocado! A firm inner core of values, and a soft exterior of kindness. So, the first lesson I learned in high school was to be like an avocado.

The second lesson I have learned is the power of self-confidence. I moved to Sequim in 8th grade and I don't know if these people will remember this, but I will always remember Kelly Meyer, who met me by the flagpole on the first day to walk me in because I was too shy to go in by myself, or Connor Martin, who invited me to sit at a lunch table when I was alone, or Arlene Law, the first person I met at Sequim Middle school who asked me to hang out, outside of school. These people shaped who I am today, and they reached out to me because they had the self-confidence to step outside of their comfort zone, to breach the social barriers of the dreaded middle school cafeteria. Whenever I had a bad day at school or was crying because I didn't feel like I fit in, my mom would recite a quote to me from a book called *The Help*, "you is kind, you is smart, and you is important". And for some reason, those simple words would always lift my mood, and give me a deep self-confidence. I'm not going to look at my mom right now because I know that she's crying and if I look at her, I'll probably cry too. Throughout high school, I have become increasingly self-confident and I hope that I have been able to be a friend to those who don't have one, just like Kelly, Connor, and Arlene were to me. And like my mom, I want to let them know that "they is kind, they is smart, and they is important". And I want to continue to do this, hopefully even better, in the future.

So here are my two main takeaways from the whole high school experience:

- 1) be like an avocado
- 2) you is kind, you is smart, and you is important

And with that, let's make it a great one wolves!

CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY COMPLETION

On February 14, 2017 voters approved a \$5.75 million Capital Project Levy for Sequim School District to deconstruct the Community School and renovate the district's central kitchen. Since then, Superintendent Neal has held public forums to encourage community conversation about the available options for completing this project. On January 22, 2018, the School Board approved moving forward with a project proposal that relocates the central kitchen to the Northwest corner of the existing building and deconstructs the remainder of the Sequim Community School. In addition, this Capital Project Levy also funded OPA's portables, providing eleven classroom spaces, as well as one portable for Greywolf Elementary and Helen Haller Elementary each.

Sequim School District kicked off the Capital Project Levy's work with a Ground Breaking Ceremony on May 18, 2018 to celebrate the beginning of this highly anticipated project. The work began with the abatement of hazardous materials, followed by the deconstruction of the majority of the school, and was completed with the construction of the central kitchen in its new location. You can view a time lapse video of the deconstruction here: http://sequimschools.org/our_district/capital_project_levy/time_lapse

On March 26, 2019, Sequim School District celebrated the completion of the Capital Project Levy, with a formal ribbon Cutting Ceremony held at its new Central Kitchen. Through the duration of the entire project, Sequim School District documented this historic moment in our community's infrastructure. You can view the documentation here: http://sequimschools.org/our_district/capital_project_levy.

THANK YOU

Our appreciation goes to Vanir Construction Management & McKinstry for their partnership and for providing such an incredible experience throughout this project. Another huge thank you goes to the many local organizations that were hired to complete work on this project. Finally, thank you Sequim for your vote and for your continued support.



Staff from Sequim School District, Vanir Construction Management, and McKinstry who met weekly for over one year to complete the Capital Project Levy. Back: Kristin Helberg, Meredith Arseneau, Steve Frazier, John McAndie, Dan McNay, Hanna McAndie, Gary Neal, John Turk. Front: Craig Fulton, Noelle Powers. Not Pictured: Steve McIntire.

Local Organizations that Worked on the CPL

ADA Signs & Graphics
Air Flo Heating
Angeles Concrete
Angeles Electric
Brady Bradshaw
Construction
Buck's Northwest
Landscaping
Cascade Bank
City of Sequim
Clallam County PUD
Clallam County
Clallam Title Company
Clark Land Surveyors
Construction Group Int. (CGI)
Drybox
Great Floors
Groves Cranes
Guardian Security

Lakeside Industries
Liquid Painting
McKinstry
Northwestern Territories
Inc. (NTI)
Olympic Electric
Olympic Peninsula
Construction
PacRim Abatement
Rainbow Sweepers
Sequim School District
Smith & Greene
TopCat Excavating
Vanir Construction
Management
Welcome Ramps
Welding Fabrication
Williams Scotsman
3 Kings



Above: Inside the new Central Kitchen

At right: Inside the new Central Kitchen freezer



May 18, 2018 'Ground Breakers' - Front: Emma Bixby, SSD Kindergartener. Middle: School Board Director Robin Henrikson, School Board Student Rep. Tea Gauthun, School Board Director Heather Short. Back: School Board Student Rep. Damon Little, School Board Director Brian Kuh, Superintendent Gary Neal, Vanir Project Manager Tobin Maggii, Vanir Vice President Bernie O'Donnell.





At left, Quinn, 2019 Graduate & car winner with Michael Rocha, Rocha Family Auto Sales Owner

2ND ANNUAL SENIOR CAR GIVEAWAY

ROCHA FAMILY AUTO SALES

Beginning in 2018, Rocha Family Auto Sales donates one vehicle to be raffled to one lucky graduate during the Senior Class Graduation Party. Rocha Family Auto Sales is a veteran owned, family run dealership located at 261861 Highway 101 in Sequim. They specialize in all credit types of financing, as well as consignments. For more information, visit at sequimauto.com and view our most current inventory.

Thank you, Rocha Family!

RETIRING STAFF



Name:	Position:	Time with SSD
Patra Boots	Exc. Director of Tech.	Aug. 19, 1996 - May 17, 2019
Susan Bridges	HHE Paraeducator	Sept. 17, 2015 - June 19, 2019
Kevin Burke	OPA Teacher	May 29, 2009 - June 15, 2018
Karen Spoelstra	HHE Paraeducator	Jan. 23, 1991 - June 19, 2019
Shirley Toso	HHE Lead Custodian	Aug. 28, 1985 - May 31, 2018

Message from the School Board

WRITTEN BY BRIAN KUH, BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENT

As we wrap up another great year in the Sequim School District, we have a number of things to celebrate.

On Friday, we saw 191 SHS students walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. This graduating class included seven Valedictorians – each one with a 4.0 grade point average throughout their entire high school career! They are Emily Bundy, Arlene Law, Liam Payne, Elizabeth Sweet, Maggie Van Dyken, Sean Weber, and Blake Wiker.

A few weeks ago, we had 82 students receive over \$3.1M in scholarships, including our graduating Senior Student School Board Representative, Damon Little, who alone received nearly \$90,000 in scholarships to attend Gonzaga University in the Fall. The top five scholarship awardees included Isabelle Hugonit (\$194,440), Liam Braaten (\$193,404), Isabelle Dennis (\$188,146), Jazen Bartee (\$180,000), and Michael Mattern-Hall (\$180,000).

The Class of 2019 was also the first graduating class that fell under the state's rigorous "Core 24" graduation requirements. This increased the number of credits required to graduate from 20 to 24. Because of this, any student who fails a single course in high school is automatically off track to meet the graduation requirement. Our Sequim Options School (SOS) program has been a critical resource for students at risk of not graduating, working hard to get them back on track and walking to receive their diploma. Early data indicates that 67, or 35%, of 2019's graduates took at least 1 SOS course to meet their 24 required credits.

Another big celebration this past year was the completion of the new Central Kitchen facility and the suc-

cessful deconstruction of the Sequim Community School. In addition to a kitchen that has the latest resources to meet the nutritional demands of our students, we also have a clean slate of property where our future expansion will take place. While our District continues to be in need of additional classroom space, we're currently exploring the opportunity to design a new school facility using the latest advancements in construction, that could also utilize our local natural resources.

Finally, the Board is currently guiding the transition of Superintendent Gary Neal towards a new future in the private sector, while also seeking an Interim Superintendent for the 2019-2020 school year. We want to thank Gary for his service to the Sequim School District and wish him well in his new venture!

On behalf of the School Board – Congratulations to the Class of 2019, and we'll see the rest of you in the Fall. Have a great Summer Break!



The 2018-19 School Board and Student Representatives

SUMMER MEALS

Free for kids and teens
18 and under!

FUEL UP ... FOR ... SUMMER FUN!

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

Sponsored by the USDA.

Summer Meals 2019 Schedule SEQUIM

June 20-Aug 31, Monday-Friday
Sites & dates subject to change
(No service July 4)

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
Breakfast 8:30-10:00 am
Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm

CARRIE BLAKE PARK (ends 8/29)
SEEBREEZE APARTMENTS (ends 8/29)
ELK CREEK APARTMENTS
Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm

SEQUIM HIGH SCHOOL (7/8 - 7/26 only)
Lunch 12:00-12:30 pm

PORT ANGELES

June 24-Aug 29, Monday-Friday
Sites & dates subject to change
(No service July 4)

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
Breakfast 8:30-9:00 am
Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm

SHANE PARK
DREAM PARK
EVERGREEN FAMILY VILLAGE
JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm

ROOSEVELT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Lunch 11:00-11:30 am

VOLUNTEERING IN THE SEQUIM SCHOOL DISTRICT

Sequim School District recognizes the valuable contribution family and community volunteers bring to our schools. A big thank you to the over 1,000 volunteers we had this year!

To be a volunteer, you must complete a clearance process. **This must be renewed each year and takes at least 2 weeks to be approved.** The online application process requires an e-mail address and provides step-by-step assistance. You will need to scan and submit a copy of your current Washington State driver's license or state ID card to the District Office. You can complete this process, or renew your application, online at <http://sequimschools.org/Resources/volunteering> or by visiting the District Office during regular business hours, where we have a computer kiosk to assist you in completing your application. Applications received less than 2 weeks before a volunteer opportunity will not be expedited.

For questions about volunteering, please the Sequim School District Office at (360) 582-3260.

THE SSD MOBILE APP WILL BE AVAILABLE AUGUST 2019!



Alerts



Calendar



Schools



Skyward



Office 365



Facebook



Staff Directory



Menus



Settings

WEST FIR STREET CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

The City of Sequim's West Fir Street Rehabilitation Project began on 05/13/2019 and is expected to be an 18-month project. Possible impacts include traffic detours, road closure, parking, and travel time.

Sequim School District buildings most likely to be impacted are the **Central Kitchen, District Office, Helen Haller Elementary School, Olympic Peninsula Academy, and Sequim High School. Maintenance and Transportation Departments** may also be impacted.

Refer to the directions of each building through the duration of this project. Project information and updates can be found on

<https://www.sequimwa.gov/civicalerts.aspx?AID=877>



AUGUST 24, 2019 10:00 - 1:00 PM BOYS & GIRLS CLUB, 400 WEST FIR STREET, SEQUIM

FREE for Sequim families with children ages birth to 18 years to prepare for the 2019-20 school year (School begins September 4, 2019)

Back Packs | School Supplies | Books | Food | Child Passenger Checks | Vision Screenings | Activities | School Bus Routes | Free & Reduced Lunch | Healthcare | Dental | Hair Trims | Preschool & Early Learning | and so much more!

IMPORTANT DATES: July, August, September 2019

July 4	District Office closed for Independence Day	HHE 8am – 3pm (closed 12- 1 pm for lunch),	September 2	Labor Day, District Office Closed
July 15	School Board meeting @ 6 pm in District Office board room (503 N. Sequim Ave.)	SHS Football first day of practice, SMS Timberwolf Days 6th Grade 11:30-5:30pm immunizations available	September 3	D-Tri Day, HHE and GWE Open Houses 4-6pm, SHS Link/Freshman Orientation 9-11am
August 5	School Board meeting @ 6 pm in District Office board room (503 N. Sequim Ave.)	August 22	September 4	First day of School for Grades 1-12, Incoming Kindergarten Conferences (Pre-schedule time with your teacher)
August 9	Stuff the Bus School Supplies Drive 2-6pm at Sequim Walmart parking lot	SHS Wolfpack Days Sophomores 8-11am, Juniors & Seniors 12-3pm, SMS Timberwolf Days 7th & 8th grade 9am – noon & 1pm – 3pm immunizations available (if you have students in multiple grades, you may come either day),	September 5	OPA Otter Day, Incoming Kindergarten Conferences (Pre-schedule time with your teacher)
August 14	SHS Counseling office reopens 8am – 3pm (closed 12- 1 pm for lunch)	SHS Band Camp	September 6	Incoming Kindergarten Conferences (Pre-schedule time with your teacher)
August 19	SMS office reopens 8am – 3pm (closed 12- 1 pm for lunch), SHS main office reopens 8am – 3pm (closed 12- 1 pm for lunch), School Board meeting @ 6 pm in District Office board room (503 N. Sequim Ave.)	August 23	September 9	First day of Kindergarten
August 20	SHS new student orientation 9am in SHS Library, SHS Fall sports paperwork due at SHS office,	August 24	September 11	OPA Picture Day
August 21	OPA office reopens 9-2 pm, GWE office reopens,	HHE Playground, Back to School Fair 10-1pm at Sequim Boys & Girls Club	September 17	SMS Picture Day
		TRI Day, SHS first day of fall sports	September 17	SMS Back to School Open House
		August 26	September 17	SMS Honor Roll Desert Night for 7th & 8th Graders (2018-19 Sem. 2)
		August 27-30	September 25	HHE Picture Day