



New school breaks down traditional walls



Barker Creek Community School students walked through their school's doors for the first time in September.

"I absolutely love it," said student Izabela.

It's very different from the alternative high school that many students, such as Izabela, attended last year. That school, which was in a portable near the Anderson Hill roundabout, is gone.

"It's so, so nice because being an alternative student — and I love alt so much — it's hard because it kind of has a bad reputation," Izabela said. "So it's even harder when you're in a little portable because you don't feel like you're an actual high school student in an actual school. This new school is just amazing because it makes it feel like you're an actual student."

In 2016, district leaders had to find a new home for the alternative high school, which construction would displace. At the same time, they were looking to increase options for families and improve student outcomes.

They created Barker Creek Community School to serve students from kindergarten to 12th grade. The school brings together elements of online learning, classroom-based high school classes, and a parent partnership program that provides support and enrichment for students who learn at home. Students and families will be able to choose pieces of each program. "What we're trying to do is break down the 'traditional' walls where you have to be inside the school to do your learning," said Principal Stuart Crisman.

The conventional school model hasn't worked for many of Barker Creek's students. Reasons why are as different as each student. They

range from complex family situations to the ability to thrive in a home or smaller school setting instead of a traditional school. But all of Barker Creek's students have something in common, Crisman said. "They come here because they want to learn," he said. "They choose to come to this school."

In some ways, Barker Creek is a work in progress. While the building is open, programs continue to evolve. In the future, the school plans to further develop the concept of a community school. Community schools bring together educators, families and community partners to offer a range of opportunities, supports and services to youths, their families and communities.

Remodeling the building at McWilliams Road and Highway 303 was the first major milestone. It has an open concept. Sliding



Barker Creek Community School serves students in grades K-12 with a variety of programs.



whiteboard walls between classrooms and common areas allow teachers to have flexible room sizes. Classrooms have new technology, such as flight simulators, and art/science labs. One student said the space felt "Google"-like.

"I think it's going to be great this year," said Kiet, who was an alternative high student for several years. "I really like the school a lot more. There's more room, new people. Teachers have always been great. I love it."

link

from David McVicker, Superintendent



It is easy—expected, even—for a school district to say that students matter. What is not so common is to see that commitment made visible. Yet in our district, the evidence surrounds us.

Earlier this month, we celebrated the opening of Barker Creek Community School. This new school provides options for students who thrive in non-traditional settings. After years of temporary classrooms, these students have a permanent home. Their smiles on the first day of school? Priceless!

Our three major bond projects are also evidence. This time next year, students at Klahowya Secondary School and Olympic High School will be settled into their new spaces, and construction on the Central Kitsap campus will be more than halfway complete.

These and other improvements across the district matter for our students and their learning. They represent our commitment to students and your belief in their future. Thank you for your support!



Permanent Spaces = Connection



Students can more easily access services and staff when they're in the main building. We'll say goodbye to dozens of portables by 2019.



Comfort = Focus

Classrooms can consistently stay comfortable – usually 68 to 72 degrees – so students can focus.



Lighting = Performance

Increasing natural light can boost learning rates – up to 25 percent, according to one study – and improve mood and mental performance.



Designed for Learning

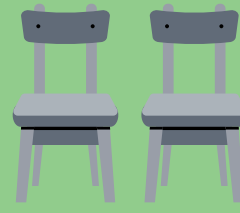
School and classroom design can impact student achievement. As we've rebuilt and remodeled our schools, we've incorporated educational design research into construction.



Acoustics = Concentration

Room design and door, window, ceiling and wall materials can reduce background noise, which helps students better hear their teachers and concentrate.

Flexible Layout = Learning Options



Thinking modularly with classroom design and furniture allows teachers to rearrange easily for small group collaboration or large group activities.



Performing Arts = Engagement

New performing arts spaces have better audio and lighting and a more inviting space for family and community. Participation in extracurricular activities is linked to student success.



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schools that students deserve

Breaking down 'traditional' walls



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