

Superintendent's Message

On behalf of the students and staff of the Dieringer School District, welcome to the Dieringer school community.

The Dieringer School District is a very special community focused around its schools which serve approximately 1,265 students in grades kindergarten through eight. This residential community, surrounding the north end of Lake Tapps, is predominately upper middle-class with a high percentage of college graduates and professional people who have a long-standing tradition of supporting the students and schools. The district's relatively small size allows for close local control and attention to individual student needs. The district is composed of students who come to school well-prepared and eager to learn. Their parents are concerned with the success of their children and provide outstanding support to the Dieringer School District.

Established as Dieringer School in 1889, what would eventually become the Dieringer Middle School facility originally served students from kindergarten through grade eight. Students attending this school lived in the Dieringer Valley and in the area adjacent to Lake Tapps Elementary. As the school district continued to grow, Dieringer Middle School was replaced in 1992 with North Tapps Middle School which serves grades six-eight; it was expanded in 1998 to serve a growing community. With strong community support, Dieringer Heights Elementary opened its doors in 2000 and is home to students in kindergarten as well as grades four and five. The aging Lake Tapps Elementary was replaced in 2006 and houses the district's first through third grade students. As the district continues to grow, much needed additional instructional spaces at Dieringer Heights Elementary and North Tapps Middle School are scheduled to open to students in 2008 and 2009. Thanks to the vision and generous support of the Dieringer community, the rapidly growing district maintains small school and class sizes to provide students a personalized educational experience. The district supports an additional 535 high school students who may select any public high school; the majority choose to attend Auburn Riverside, Sumner and Bonney Lake High Schools.

The district has a long-standing history of providing a high quality education for all our students. Our goal is for our students to gain the skills that will allow them to become successful, confident, contributing members of society. Dieringer is composed of students who come to school well prepared and eager to learn; they consistently perform well above state academic standards and excel in extra-curricular activities. Parents are concerned with student success and provide outstanding support for their children and the Dieringer School District. The PTA and many volunteers contribute countless hours and resources to our schools and students. The district encourages and benefits from parent participation at all levels.

The Dieringer School District has a highly professional teaching and support staff that cares for children and is dedicated to their academic achievement. I am impressed and

delighted with what I see happening daily in the classrooms of the district. The Dieringer staff is committed to the district’s primary mission – the care and education of children.

The Dieringer school community—parents, community member, students and staff—epitomizes one of my favorite quotes from John Dewey in 1890, coincidentally the same time our school community was formed, “What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must the community want for all of its children.”

We hope you will find this information useful and engaging.

Regards,

Dr. Judy Neumeier-Martinson
Superintendent

Dieringer School District Board of Directors

The Dieringer School Board is a five member policy making board which represents the community in providing direction to the superintendent and the district staff. Members are elected to four year terms and, although each member lives in a different geographical area in the district, all board members are elected by and represent all Dieringer voters.

The School Board’s responsibilities include:

- Develop and adopt district policy governing all facets of school operation and to delegate the implementation of that policy to the superintendent.
- Hire and evaluate the superintendent.
- Establish and evaluate current and long range educational goals and programs that will ensure student success.
- Approve and adopt an annual budget.
- Keep the public informed on the needs and progress of the educational system.

The public is encouraged to attend school board meetings. All actions of the board are required to take place in public sessions. A portion of each meeting is set aside specifically for comment or questions from staff and community members. Occasionally there is the need for closed executive sessions where limited personnel issues, real estate matters or other legal issues may require confidentiality. Meetings are usually scheduled

on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 PM at the district office. Any additional meetings or changes in schedules are always advertised.

The School Board is committed to achieving the best education possible for the students of this community. With your support and input, they will be able to achieve that goal.

Dieringer School Board

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District Mission Statement

Dieringer School District
Educating every child for
Confidence today and
Contribution tomorrow

To provide optimal education opportunities for all students, the Dieringer School District will be characterized by:

A quality educational program addressing individual student needs and achieving academic and personal growth for all students

Highly qualified and empowered staff committed to lifelong learning

An effective and timely communication to inform and engage students, parents and the community

Wise stewardship of the district resources

The Dieringer School District will provide all students with appropriate high-quality programs in a safe, challenging and inclusive school environment. This mission will be undertaken with respect for and in partnership with families and the community.

Dieringer: The Community

The classified, certified, and support staff are committed to our primary mission: the care and education of children. The administrators and directors are talented and dedicated professionals who work tirelessly to provide an outstanding educational program for all of the students in the Dieringer School District.

District enrollment is approximately 1265 students, kindergarten through grade eight. These students are served in three schools: Lake Tapps Elementary serves approximately 414 students in grades one through three; Dieringer Heights Elementary serves approximately 421 students in kindergarten, pre-first as well as grades four and five; North Tapps Middle School houses approximately 423 students in grades six through eight. The grade level configuration, with all of the students of the district moving through the system together, is specifically designed by the staff and community to allow our students a strong sense of community and a high level of staff collaboration. The district student population is 1.4% Black, 2.5% Asian/Pacific Islander, .8% Native American, 2.5% Hispanic and 88.5% White; 7% of the students qualify for the free and reduced lunch program and 8.8% of the students qualify for special education services.

The highly professional staff works very hard on behalf of the students and community of the Dieringer School District. We have a very experienced professional teaching staff that care for children and are dedicated to their academic achievement. Teachers and administrators are working diligently to implement new curricula, state and district assessments, and the Essential Academic Learning Requirements for the state of Washington. To provide time for staff collaboration, middle school students arrive two hours late each Wednesday morning and elementary students are dismissed two hours early each Friday afternoon for what is termed ACE (Academic Collaboration Enhancement) time.

Dieringer students in grades nine through twelve have the opportunity to attend any high school in the state. The majority of the district's approximately 500 high school age students currently elect to attend the Auburn School District (91%), with the remaining students selecting Sumner and White River. Dieringer students report feeling very advantaged by the small school setting in grades kindergarten through eight and go on to experience a high rate of success, academically and in extracurricular programs, in high school and beyond.

Getting Involved

Parents and community members can provide meaningful support to the instructional and support programs within the Dieringer School District.

Volunteers play an important role in our Dieringer schools by helping in the classroom, library, office, and on the playground. PTA, for the elementary schools, and PTSA, for

the middle school, provide active support and assistance in all three schools and offer a wide range of volunteer opportunities.

Parents and community members are encouraged to participate on advisory committees and decision-making committees to review curriculum development, textbook selection and organizational policy.

Parents, community members and older Dieringer School District students are invited to provide one-to-one tutoring to students in our elementary and middle schools. Training is provided prior to a tutoring commitment.

Joining the Dieringer School District

If your student will be joining the Dieringer School District, you may register your child at the school office. During the summer, you may register at the school district office.

Students entering kindergarten may be placed in one of the district's three programs:

K-2 is half-day kindergarten readiness program. Children who turn five on or before December 31 are eligible. If they turn five after August 31, they are required to take an early entry screening. There is a required \$75.00 non-refundable fee for the screening.

Full Day Kindergarten is designed for children who will turn five by August 31. The program gets its support from Dieringer School District local funds.

The **Pre-First** program is designed to meet the needs of children who may benefit from a full-day experience prior to first grade. To enter Pre-First, a child will be required to:

- complete K or an equivalent program
- complete K-2 or an equivalent program
- turn six years of age by August 31 or successfully pass the district early entry screening.

Students in **grades 1 through 3** have the option of being placed in **single grade or multi-age** classrooms. First, second, and third grade classes are available for students whose parents feel their academic and social needs will best be served in the traditional single grade classroom. Other parents find the multi-age classes composed of first and second graders, first through third graders or second and third meet the needs of their children. Looped classes may also be available, affording a class of students the opportunity to stay together as a single grade class, with the same teacher for two or more years. Students in multi-age and looped classes are expected to remain in the class until the end of the program.

Parent input is actively sought in the class placement of all students; we are anxious to partner with our parents to provide the best possible program for each child.

Our Students Achieve

The WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) is administered to students across Washington State each spring to measure student progress toward meeting the state's rigorous new academic standards based on the Essential Learning Requirements in reading, writing, and mathematics. The following shows the percentage of students meeting standard in each area.

WASL 2006-2007

2006-07 WASL Results (Administration Info)				
Grade Level	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
3rd Grade	81.5%	84.9%		
4th Grade	87.3%	74.6%	81.4%	
5th Grade	89.5%	75.2%		62.4%
6th Grade	90.2%	70.5%		
7th Grade	92.3%	74.8%	82.4%	
8th Grade	79.6%	67.6%		57.7%

The Dieringer School District Board of Directors has established instructional improvement goals aimed at helping even more students meet and extend the standard for success.

Special Services

The Dieringer School District provides assistance to students with learning, communication, physical and other disabilities. We strive to educate each child in the district depending on individual student needs to our fullest capability.

Each special education student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which is reviewed and updated annually. Every three years the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) reassesses a student's progress to determine his/her eligibility for services. The provision of these services require five special education teachers, instruction assistants, a school psychologist, one part-time physical therapist, one part-time physical therapy assistant, an occupational therapist, one occupational therapy assistant, counselors at NTMS, DHES and LTES, as well as contractual services with community agencies and the Puget Sound Educational Service District. Dieringer also provides remedial services in the area of reading for students who do not qualify for special education.

Technology for Students and Staff

Vision: The Dieringer School District will provide a challenging educational program that promotes student success and fosters a love of learning through the innovative use of curriculum, resources and technology. Students will learn through a technology-rich environment to effectively access and analyze information as well as explore, formulate and communicate ideas. Staff members will embrace technology to maximize the potential of all students, promote academic excellence, and strive for professional growth.

Thanks to the strong, continual support of the Dieringer Community through the passage of bonds and levies, the district has been able to procure modern desktop and networking equipment. Smart Boards and document cameras are transforming instruction. These purchases have enabled us to better serve our academic and administrative staff by using technology to streamline many operations, including communications, record keeping and research activities.

Our teachers use technology to evaluate student achievement through the use of assessment tools purchased from companies such as Accelerated Reader and the Northwest Evaluation Association. We will also explore the possibility of posting student progress and attendance data on the World Wide Web in a secure fashion for access by parents and guardians.

Teachers, instructional assistants, counselors, staff, and others who work with and for students are integrating the use of technology, multimedia and the World Wide Web as a planning, learning, and research tool. Teachers in all grade levels are encouraged to incorporate technology-based projects as part of their curriculum.

Students use computers to publish writing, research topics, create presentations and work on many other projects using the latest hardware and software.

Teachers use this technology to better communicate with parents. Progress updates and grade reports are sent home periodically, and email is used to help communicate one-on-one with parents. Newer technologies will continue to improve parent/teacher/student communication.

Regular Transportation

The Dieringer School District operates a fleet of 14 buses which transport students; the average age of our buses is 7-8 years. Two of our buses have a wheelchair lift for accommodating students with disabilities. We consume about 100 gallons of diesel fuel each day by delivering, on average, 900 students to and from school. Over the course of a school year, this amounts to 160,000 rides to school and another 160,000 back home.

Rural roads and lack of sidewalks in the district dictate that we transport students who may live very close to schools. Safety is our utmost concern and rather than have children walk along or cross busy roads, we drive them to school. To further our commitment to safety, we practice emergency exit drills three times each year.

Activity Bus

Dieringer provides transportation home following most middle after-school activities. The activity bus does not stop at all regular stops, so please consult the activity bus schedule that is available in the North Tapps Middle School office. All elementary students may ride the bus on Friday after ACE and must be met by a parent (or designated adult) at the activity bus stop. The activity bus delivers students home later and during the winter months, it is often after dark. Please make arrangements to always have someone meet your child.

Sports and Activities

Students in the Dieringer School District have many opportunities to participate in organized sports and school-based activities

Elementary School Programs: At Dieringer Heights Elementary, Intramural Sports are offered at lunchtime. Activity programs are provided before and after school are offered at both Lake Tapps and Dieringer Heights Elementary schools. Specific schedules will be provided to students and parents throughout the school year. A permission slip signed by a parent or guardian is required prior to participating.

Middle School Programs: In the middle school, sports and activity programs are offered to sixth, seventh, and eighth graders who meet the requirements of the Participation Guidelines for Extracurricular Activities Code. Coaches and advisors will explain the additional requirement and check student eligibility.

Requirements for sports which must be met prior to the first practice include:

- **Grade point average of 2.25 or higher**
- **Completed “green” card**
- **Physical form on file with office**
- **Statement of insurance**
- **Purchase of ASB Card**

Sixth grade students who have met the above requirements can participate in basketball, volleyball and track through NTMS. Gymnastics and wrestling may be offered to sixth grade students through Mt. Baker Middle School, in nearby Auburn School District.

Seventh and eighth grade students who have met the above requirements can participate in girls soccer, football, basketball, volleyball, softball, baseball and track. Gymnastics, and wrestling are offered through Mt. Baker Middle School.

Community Resources List

Acquainted with Grief Support Group	253-272-5558
American Red Cross	253-474-0700
Auburn Young Life	253-735-3247
Cabulance for Pierce County	253-473-7444
Catholic Community Services	253-383-3697
Children's Home Society of Washington	253-472-3355
Crisis Line of Pierce County	253-396-5180
Department of Social and Health Services	253-840-4600
Department of Vocational Rehabilitation	253-593-2350
Family Counseling Service	253-565-4484
Francis House (clothing)	253-848-3618
Gateways for Youth and Families	253-383-4361
Good Samaritan Behavioral Health	253-848-5571
Good Samaritan Community Healthcare	253-848-6661
Hearing Speech and Deafness Center	206-323-5570
Mary Bridge Children's Hospital	253-403-1400
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation	206-213-0200
Lindquist Clinic for Children (dental)	253-539-7445
MultiCare Health System	253-552-1404
Pierce County Alliance (substance abuse)	253-572-4750
Pierce Transit	253-581-8080
Pierce County Sheriff	253-798-7530
Parent Warm Line	253-272-9888
Pierce County Library	253-536-6500
Puyallup Valley Institute (counseling)	253-848-9088
Tacoma Area Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities	253-565-9000
Sexual Assault Center of Pierce County	253-597-6424
Social Security Hotline	800-772-1213
Tacoma Pierce County Health Department	253-798-6500
United Cerebral Palsy of Pierce County	253-565-1463
Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation	253-833-7444
Washington PAVE	253-565-2266
Washington State Parent and Teacher Association	253-565-2153
Washington State Patrol	360-753-6540
YMCA	253-564-9622
YWCA	253-272-4181
Youth Suicide Prevention Program	206-297-5922

Children's Organizations & Programs

Boy Scouts of America Pacific Harbors Council

Pack 527 Cubmaster	Don Payne	862-3689
Chair	Kristin Potter	862-8383
Boy Scout Troop 501 Scoutmaster	Joe Wood	826-1301

Camp Fire Boys and Girls 845-3493

Girl Scouts Pacific Peak Council

Membership Director Teresa Byard 475-0307

Headstart Pierce County 596-6910

4-H Club Information 591-7160

YMCA

Puyallup Area Family Branch	841-2442
Auburn Branch – Wes Gill	833-2770

Parks and Recreation

Sumner Recreation Program	891-6500
Auburn Parks and Recreation	931-3043
Information Line	931-3095
Tacoma Parks and Recreation	305-1000
Sumner Swimming Pool	891-5550

Community Events:

Annual community events in our surrounding area are varied. From arts and crafts, fairs, parades, holiday observances to outdoor concert, there are many activities for the family nearby. Please visit the Auburn and Sumner web sites or phone for more information.

Information on student activities and sports sign-ups will be posted to the Dieringer School District website throughout the year.