



March 13, 2017

Dear Families,

Thank you for giving your feedback recently to our Attendance Areas Pre-K 12 Standing Committee regarding the proposal to change part of Squalicum High School's attendance area to Bellingham High School.

The committee reviewed all of the feedback after the family input meeting on Feb. 15, 2017 and from the survey. They have since met twice to further discuss and consider the feedback before submitting the recommendation to me. I have thoroughly reviewed the recommendation and appreciate the committee's work.

We are fortunate because for the most part, our students and families love their schools and don't want to make a change. I can certainly understand that and we don't take these decisions lightly. In our past experience, once families make the transition with strong support, most students and families quickly become attached to their new school as well.

I have decided to accept the committee's recommendation. This will help students at Bellingham and Squalicum have similar course choices and opportunities, and it begins to address some of the enrollment issues we're experiencing due to the growth in north Bellingham.

**This letter confirms that you are now living in the Birchwood Elementary, Shuksan Middle School and Bellingham High School attendance area. Please see the enclosed map.**

- Current juniors who live in this area are welcome to finish their senior year at Squalicum High School. To do so, they will need to submit a transfer request by March 15 (using the special form that has been posted at [Bellinghamschools.org/attendance-areas-committee](http://bellingshools.org/attendance-areas-committee) or at school offices since February). These special transfer requests for juniors will be approved, but must be submitted. School bus transportation to/from Squalicum will not be provided. Students may or may not be able to access a bus to Squalicum from a nearby neighborhood stop, depending on how many empty seats are available per the courtesy busing guidelines in procedure 6600: <http://bellingshools.org/procedures/6600-procedure/>
- Current freshmen and sophomores who live in this area will attend Bellingham High School for their sophomore through senior years. Students may make a transfer request (using the special form posted at [Bellinghamschools.org/attendance-areas-committee](http://bellingshools.org/attendance-areas-committee) or at school offices) for consideration by March 15. For those requesting a transfer to remain at Squalicum, school bus transportation will not be provided. Students may or may not be able to access a bus to Squalicum from a nearby neighborhood stop, depending on how many empty seats are available per the courtesy busing guidelines in procedure 6600: <http://bellingshools.org/procedures/6600-procedure/>

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- Current Shuksan eighth graders and future high school students who live in this area will attend Bellingham High School.
- Students who have siblings who will be Squalicum seniors next year may choose to submit a transfer request (using the special form posted at [Bellinghamschools.org/attendance-areas-committee](http://bellingshools.org/attendance-areas-committee) or at school offices) by March 15 for consideration to remain at Squalicum. School bus transportation will not be provided. Students may or may not be able to access a bus to Squalicum from a nearby neighborhood stop, depending on how many empty seats are available per the courtesy busing guidelines in procedure 6600: <http://bellingshools.org/procedures/6600-procedure/>

Bellingham High School's Principal Linda Miller and staff are excited to welcome new students and support them in making a smooth and successful transition. Please watch for a welcome letter from Principal Miller and upcoming events at BHS.

If you have questions about your address and proposed attendance area, please contact us (360) 676-6512.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Baker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Greg Baker  
Superintendent