the
Bellingham Promise

vision

We, as a community, make a collective commitment to Bellingham’s children. We will empower every child to discover and develop a passion, contribute to their community, and achieve a fulfilling and productive life.

mission

We collectively commit that our students are cared for and respected, and that they will graduate from our schools prepared for success. All students will be exceptional in their own way, with strong character, a passion for learning, and ready for the widest range of educational and vocational options to support a diversity of life choices.

We believe:

- all children should be loved,
- the whole child is important,
- every child can learn at high levels,
- early learning and development are critical,
- learning is lifelong and essential to a high quality of life,
- compassion and service build community,
- teaching children to do their best involves self-reflection and reaching higher,
- diversity enhances a strong and healthy community, and
- together we achieve more than alone.

School Board

Kelly M. Bashaw, Director
Douglas W. Benjamin, Director
Camille Diaz Hackler, Director
Jennifer I. Mason, Director
Quenby M. Peterson, Director
Greg Baker, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board

bellinghamschools.org

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We develop students and graduates who are...

**Knowledge**
- readers and writers,
- scientists and mathematicians,
- historians and global thinkers,
- artists and performers
- artisans and technicians,
- multilingual readers and speakers,
- skilled users of technology and information,

**Character**
- leaders, collaborators and team players,
- dependable and responsible people,
- confident individuals who continuously challenge themselves,
- respectful and compassionate humans,
- honest and ethical citizens who act with integrity,

**Action**
- healthy, active individuals,
- critical thinkers and problem solvers,
- effective communicators,
- innovators and creators, and
- well-rounded community members engaged with the broader world.

Board Policy E-2, E-3

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**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**
We commit to facilitating change that will lead to a more diverse, inclusive and equitable organization. Focus areas include, but are not limited to, race and ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability, language and culture.

**Great Teaching with Strong Support**
Culturally-responsive instruction occurs in every classroom, every day, resulting in high levels of learning. We support instruction through effective leadership, ongoing staff learning, and a diverse staff reflective of our students, who establish safe and engaging learning environments where all students feel a sense of belonging.

**Early Childhood Education**
We support students and families from prenatal through graduation. We invest in a strong early childhood program because of its powerful long-term return for our students and community.

**A One Schoolhouse Approach**
All our schools are part of a larger One Schoolhouse. We provide an equitable distribution of resources and services to ensure excellence for all students.

**Student, Family, and Community Engagement**
We develop partnerships and authentically engage with a wide variety of stakeholders, including families and community partners. We acknowledge barriers and work to minimize them, in order to support the success of all students.

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**Strategic Planning**
The Bellingham Promise is our district strategic plan, collaboratively developed in 2012 with staff, students, families and our community and is reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The Promise reflects our School Board’s policy governance policies, which set desired outcomes for current students and graduates.