



Shaw Island School District 10

August 2021

Dear Shaw Island Community,

I want to welcome you all to the 2021-2022 School Year at Shaw Island School. Although we are still not totally free of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will once again be teaching all of our students in person every school day. We so look forward to a great school year.

I would also like to introduce you to our new staff. First off, we are excited to welcome our new upper grade teacher, Abi Ellingson. Abi comes to us with fifteen years of upper grade teaching experience here in Washington State and at international schools as well. Her resume, simply put, is outstanding! Abi is a true island girl having been raised on San Juan Island and with personal connections to Shaw Island. Please welcome her as you see her about the island!

I would also like to introduce myself. The Board of Directors hired me to be the principal/superintendent starting this past July. I live on San Juan Island and will be coming to Shaw at least twice a month to conduct all manner of District and school business. Previous to my work here, I have spent the last 45 years as a public-school educator...first as an elementary teacher, then elementary principal, then as a district director for school reform, an assistant superintendent, and as a superintendent of three districts before landing my role here.

You may be wondering...and yes, the State has mandated that all students, staff and volunteers mask-up while in the classroom and maintain a separation of three feet whenever feasible. We will continue to provide the same high level of cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms and outdoor common spaces. Students will not be required to mask up while at lunch or during outside activities, unless they choose to.

Another change mandated by the state is that districts must collect the vaccine status of students over the age of 12, staff and ALL volunteers before they engage in any student contact. Knowing the vaccination status of all who come in contact with our students will help districts quickly enact the appropriate next steps if a student or staff member has been exposed to or has COVID-19.

We are excited to start the school year off with a two-day field trip for students and parents to Canoe Island. While on Canoe Island, students will gain experiences in archery, kayaking, swimming, nature hikes, team building as well as science and music. Extending learning outside of the classroom into our beautiful environment broadens all the learning possibilities for each of our students!

Please know that I am here to serve the students, parents, staff and community and to that end, please feel free to email me at: kmcveigh@shaw.k12.wa.us if you have any questions or suggestions! If your inquiry is urgent, please contact Deanna Shannon, and she will let me know to get back to you quickly.

Best always,

Kari McVeigh
Principal/Superintendent
Shaw Island School District

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