



**News release**  
**April 26, 2019**

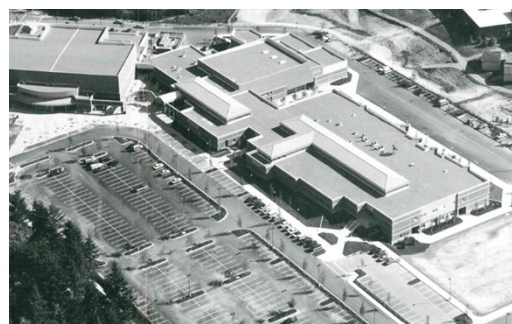
## **Jackson High School celebrates 25 years!**

*Built in 1994, this marks the 25th anniversary for the high school*



When Henry M. Jackson High School (JHS) opened its doors 25 years ago, it was a spacious, modern school for its new students. Originally built in 1994 for 1,500 students, there were only 9th and 10th grade students attending, allowing plenty of room for 660

students and almost 75 staff members. At that time enrollment was low and the construction boom was just beginning.



*In 1994 Jackson High School opened for 9th and 10th grade students*

Ten years later the 'D' wing was constructed. In 2012 the 'Annex' was added and 17 portables phased in to accommodate additional enrollment growth. There are now over 2,200 students and almost 190 staff members at JHS. An additional wing and annex increased the permanent capacity to 1,807 students. The school is nearly 400 students over that permanent capacity. Seventeen portables have been added to help offset the student enrollment growth.

So much has changed since 1994, but much has stayed the same.



*Kristina Fudge*

"This year we are beginning a new set of traditions. Not just in sports team, mascots and dances, but the traditions that will make the students at JHS better prepared for college and the real world," wrote Kristina Fudge in the opening page of the 1994-95 year book (<http://bit.ly/JHS1994-95Yearbook>). "JHS is striving to be different in the ways students learn and run the school."

Those values and commitments continue today, but the way students learn has definitely taken a whole new look.

Shannan Matthews, a 2019 senior, shared, "The school has expanded so much since it was first built. The 'D' wing and Annex were built a few years before I entered Jackson, but I couldn't imagine the school without them. I don't know how we would have enough room at lunch or enough classes for students. My class is the biggest in Jackson history, and the juniors following are even larger. The community that has grown around this school is incredible. There is so much diversity and support through each and every student in our class, I think it's amazing how much larger the school has grown but how the community within the school has remained strong and continues to grow more diverse."



*Shannan Matthews*

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Original staff members Carol Barnes, David Hutt, Laura Nelson, Kirk Nicholson, Stephanie (Andrews) Powell, Kaye Peterson, and Joel Vincent have dedicated their careers to the students at JHS; 25 years later they're still there! Monica (Lochrie) Andersen graduated from Jackson and is now teaching Nutrition and Independent Living at the school.



*In 2019 with 'D' Wing, Annex and 17 portables*

“Ever since our school opened in 1994, it has been our mission to prepare students for their futures,” shared current principal Dave Peters. “Of course, the ‘future’ for students has significantly changed in the last quarter century. Today we are preparing students to hold jobs that may not yet exist, using technologies that haven’t been invented, and to solve problems that we don’t know are problems yet.”

Over its 25 year history, thousands of students have graduated from Jackson High School and we are looking forward to many more.

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**For more information:**

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