



Media Advisory

From Seattle Public Schools

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South Shore School celebrates its Grand opening on Tuesday, September 8

Seattle Public Schools is hosting a grand opening celebration for the newly constructed South Shore School on Tuesday, September 8, at 9:30 a.m. Students, teachers, parents, families, staff and community members are invited to this special event which will feature several keynote speakers including Superintendent Maria L. Goodloe-Johnson, Ph.D.

Seattle Public Schools is committed to ensuring an excellent education and educational facility for every student. We have high expectations for each of our students and our teachers are dedicated to preparing every student to graduate from high school ready for college, careers and life.

The first day of school for Seattle Public Schools students is Wednesday, September 9. South Shore School will open its doors to serve pre-Kindergarten through 7th grade students this school year and will add 8th graders next year. The \$69.6 million newly constructed school is part of the Seattle Public Schools Building Excellence III (BEX III) bond construction program, approved by voters in 2007.

Construction began on the 139,000 square foot South Shore School in April 2008. With a capacity for 810 students, the school is designed with collaborative classroom wings surrounding a round common area that doubles as a performance space. South Shore School has a strong emphasis on family involvement and participation, and the new building reflects that commitment with a PTSA meeting room and a Community Living Room where families and staff can mingle at the beginning and end of the school day.

Additionally, a full service health clinic provides space for a private provider, and a child care space will enable partner Kids Co to provide before and after school care. Natural lighting, conducive to improved academic performance, is prevalent throughout the building.

The South Shore School has benefited from a long term partnership between the New School Foundation and Seattle Public Schools to provide an innovative educational program. The annual grant from the foundation, which will be \$1.37 million during the upcoming school year, enables the school to launch students with a strong pre-kindergarten to third grade program, followed by a rigorous academic program in the

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intermediate and middle grades. The grant allows the school to foster each child's academic, social and emotional development through a comprehensive wellness program, additional teacher collaboration time, and reduced class sizes in early grades.

What: Grand opening of South Shore School. The grand opening will begin outside of the building and end with an interior tour of the new building.

When: Tuesday, September 8th, at 9:30 a.m. (Attendees will begin to assemble at 9:00)

Where: The Rainier/Henderson Plaza, 4800 South Henderson, at the corner of Rainier Avenue South and South Henderson, adjacent to South Shore School. Parking is available adjacent to Henderson and Rainier Avenues.

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