

Olympic Hills

Name:	Olympic Hills Elementary School	Enrollment:	272
Address:	13018 20th Avenue NE	Nickname:	none
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	none



Olympic Hills, 1960 SPSA 261-3

Olympic Hills School is the third Seattle Public School with “Olympic” in its name (see Olympic and Olympic View). It was planned, named, and its construction started by the Shoreline School District, but before it opened in 1954, the area was annexed into the City of Seattle. The school opened in the Seattle School District with 585 pupils.

In 1955, the school grounds were landscaped and two outdoor basketball courts were added. Grass was planted on part of the playfield and the play area next to the school was blacktopped. Two additional lavatories were constructed on the north side of the building in 1957.

From 1954–1958, the school carnival embraced a western theme and was called the Olympic Hills Roundup. In 1958–59, it was modernized to a space-age theme and renamed the Olympic Hills Rocket Roundup.

Enrollment grew steadily and, in 1962–63, nine portables were needed to help house the 800 pupils. After that peak, enrollment declined to about 360 in 1976. By then, the last of the portables had been removed from the grounds.

A highly successful Career Education Program began in 1971 involving a variety of community members who visited classrooms to talk about their jobs. Field trips also provided students with a first-hand view of different occupations. A Career Education Achievement Fair held in 1974 displayed products designed and produced by each class.

The Outdoor-Education Program was introduced in 1972–73 and culminated each spring with a three-day campout for 6th graders at Cornet Bay Youth Camp at Deception Pass State Park. The destination

Name: **Olympic Hills School**
 Location: 13018 20th Avenue NE
 Building: 17-room brick
 Architect: John Graham & Co.
 Site: 6.48 acres

1954: Opened in September

changed around 1980, but the program continues to enhance student awareness of the natural environment.

From a modest beginning of just a few books, the school's library took shape and, by 1957, had its own room and 4,000 volumes. In 1970, an expanded learning resource center opened and became the hub of the school, used not only for reading activities but also several other programs. It was named for librarian Lorena Slover who was largely responsible for its creation. Outside of the door to the LRC is a painting of "Oly" the Otter, the student-selected mascot for their newspaper, *Little Oly*.

Under the district's 1978 desegregation plan, Olympic Hills (K, 1-3) formed a triad with Rogers (K, 1-3) and Madrona (K, 4-6) during the 1979-81 school years. Olympic Hills returned to a K-6 configuration in September 1981 and K-5 in 1988.

The current project-based curriculum at Olympic Hills allows for choice between single grade level classes or a mix of grade levels. The school has continued its emphasis on experiential learning and students take frequent fieldtrips, sharing what they learn at weekly celebration assemblies. An all-school trip to Camp Long in West Seattle is a highlight of the school year. Students help create a school song book and campfire skits for this end-of-the-year experience.



Olympic Hills, 1955 SPSA 261-1