

Rainier View

Name:	Rainier View Elementary School	Enrollment:	278
Address:	11650 Beacon Avenue S	Nickname:	Tigers
Configuration:	K-5	Colors:	Red and white



Rainier View, 1965 SPSA 264-1

In 1951, a committee from the Rainier Valley Community Club asked the Seattle Parks Department to install a playfield in the southeast Beacon Hill area. They were told that there first had to be a school in the area. The committee approached the Seattle School Board in 1952 and, in January 1953, Southeast Beacon Hill School was opened in an old gravel pit with five portables for grades K-3 to help ease overcrowding at Dunlap and Emerson.

The permanent name Rainier View Elementary School was selected by the Southeast Beacon Hill community because "Mt. Rainier dominates the scenery from the school." A sixth portable was added in September 1954 and, in fall 1961, a permanent school building was opened as a K-6 school. With the new building, enrollment went from 116 to 371.

In 1968-69, Rainier View began using the continuous-progress concept of education with Individually Prescribed Instruction, then a new program of studies. It was still in use in 1970-71.

The school's configuration changed to K-4 in 1973-74. At that time, two special education classes and two Head Start classes were opened in the vacated rooms. School enrollment was down to just under 200 in 1975-76. Under the district's desegregation plan initiated in 1979, Rainier View became a K-5 school.



Rainier View, ca. 1973 SPSA 264-4

Name: **Southeast Beacon Hill School**
 Location: 11230 Luther Avenue
 Building: Portables
 Site: 9.5 acres

1953: Opened on January 5 as annex to Dunlap
 1954: Officially named *Rainier View Elementary School* on May 21
 1961: Closed in June

Name: **Rainier View Elementary School**
 Location: 11650 Beacon Avenue S
 Building: 15-room 1-story
 Architect: Durham, Anderson & Freed
 Site: 9.5 acres

1961: Opened in September

Since 1995, the school has undergone a positive change. Its students and staff have worked steadily to improve academic achievement and school climate. Rainier View is now full to capacity with a waiting list for 1st and 4th graders. Reading is a focus of the curriculum, and teachers rely on phonics-based “direct instruction” methods, in which children are given specific reading strategies. Students have worn uniforms since fall 1997.