

## Sand Point

Name: Sand Point Elementary School	Enrollment: 230
Address: 6208 60th Avenue NE	Nickname: Squirrel
Configuration: K-5	Colors:



Sand Point, 1960 SPSA 269-2

The first school in the Sand Point area opened in 1890. It was named Pontiac School after the community that grew up around the Pontiac Shingle Mill, located on a small cove directly north of Sand Point and south of Matthews Beach.

Pontiac School was located in Yesler School District No. 148. After its annexation into the Seattle School District, the one-room schoolhouse fell into disuse when its 10 students were transported to Yesler School (see Bryant) as a cost-cutting measure. After the school was permanently closed, the site was sold to the federal government and became part of the U. S. Sand Point Naval Air Station.

In 1956, Seattle School District's enrollment was second only to Los Angeles among the western states, and the district was using more than 531 portable buildings to accommodate the growing student population. The elementary schools in the northeast section of the city (Laurelhurst, Bryant, and View Ridge) all had exceeded capacity, so the time was right for a school in the Sand Point area.

Property was purchased in 1953 and appropriated in 1956, just south of the Sand Point Naval Air Station in anticipation of a new school. While waiting for much-needed construction funds to build a new school, 309 Sand

### Details:

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Name:	<b>Pontiac School</b>
Location:	60th Avenue NE & Sand Point Way
Building:	1-room wood
Architect:	n.a
Site:	1.003 acres

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1890:	Opened by Yesler School District
1911:	Annexed into Seattle School District
1918:	Closed
1926:	Sold

## Details:

Name: **Sand Point Elementary School**

Location: 6208 60th Avenue NE

Building: 14-room brick veneer  
with steel frame

Architect: G. Stoddard-F. Huggard  
& Associates

Site: 4.08 acres

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- 1956: Temporary school opened with 13 portables
  - 1957: Construction began; school named on February 15
  - 1958: Opened in September
  - 1988: Closed in June
  - 1990: Leased to North Seattle Community College
  - 2010: School reopened (Harthorne Hagen Architects; BTA III)
  - 2019: Seismic upgrades

Point students attended a temporary K-6 school on the site, which opened in September 1956 with 13 portables. The property had been part of a farm and a large apple orchard stood directly south of the portable school.

A construction bond passed in November 1956, providing funds for a permanent Sand Point school. The architectural plans called for 14 classrooms, gymnasium, lunchroom and kitchen, book room with audio-visual facilities, administrative offices, and faculty rooms. Additional features included forced hot-water heating and both incandescent and fluorescent lighting. In September 1957, work began on the new building on the site of the old orchard. In fall 1958, 13 teachers greeted 407 pupils at the doorways of their new classrooms. A few weeks later, one more teacher joined the staff and all 14 classrooms were in use.

The student body became more diverse in 1965 when Central Area students came to Sand Point as part of the Voluntary Transfer Program. Under this program, 51 pupils from Harrison and 13 from Madrona attended Sand Point during the 1967-68 school year.

In 1967, Sand Point received a collection of 30 original paintings by well-known Northwest artists. Mr. and Mrs. Angus Mallory, whose grandchildren attended the school, crafted and donated the frames.



Sand Point, 1960 SPSA 269-1

In 1971, the school became K-5 when the 6th graders left for middle schools. A program for children with learning-language disabilities began that same year, and a preschool rented one of the school's vacant rooms.

Sand Point's enrollment dropped to 176 in September 1979, so the principal of Sacajawea took over as head of both schools. In a school district plan released that year, Sand Point was designated for closure, but parents were opposed, citing the fact it was a relatively new facility, had low maintenance costs, and was successful in voluntary desegregation. The school had a minority enrollment of 38 percent. University of Washington students whose children attended Sand Point petitioned both the district and the university to retain the school.

When it closed in 1988, Sand Point was operating at only 56 percent of capacity. In its final years, the school was home to a hearing-impaired program. In 1990, the building was leased to North Seattle Community College (NSCC) for off-campus classrooms.

Nearly two decades later, as neighboring schools began to exceed capacity, the district decided to terminate the lease with NSCC and reopen Sand Point Elementary. Part of the decision was based on the growing number of families living in transitional housing in the Sand Point/Magnusson Park neighborhood. Several upgrades were completed to ready the school for the 2010-11 school year. These included new furniture, playground equipment, and colorful tiles lining the main hallway. When it opened in 2010, the building housed one kindergarten class, one "transitional" kindergarten class with students with special needs, one kindergarten/1st grade split, and one class each of 2nd to 5th graders.

In 2015, this incredibly diverse school was educating students who were native speakers in more than 21 languages. That same year, a new after-school program geared for Native American students was added to school offerings.