

June 2023 Superintendent's Corner | Mukilteo Beacon

Some things never go out of style!

In past columns, I've shared a lot of nuts and bolts about the Mukilteo School District: COVID-related updates, bond progress, the district's Strategic Plan launch, and several entries about the budget. This time, I am focusing on a topic that is near and dear to my heart: graduating seniors who just walked across stages and accepted their diplomas last week.

In my graduation speeches, I shared with students a few things that were popular when they were born which, for most of them, was 2005. YouTube and Grey's Anatomy launched that year and skinny jeans were all the rage. Thankfully, many things have gone out of style since then: Heelys (remember those shoes with wheels?), people wearing a tie with their regular clothes, and headbands with your name in glitter.

However, some things never go out of style. Recently I met with local business owners and asked what skills they were looking for in employees and honestly, they were the same skills that employers wanted when I was in high school: communication (someone who can talk with actual people, not just through technology); collaboration (how to work well with others in a team); punctuality; active listening; follow through (if you say you are going to do something, then do it).

There are also values that never go out of style: Kindness, empathy, acceptance, cleaning up your own messes, and leaving things better than you found them.

I asked the students to envision their own futures and challenged them to apply this thinking to their own journeys. "What for you will never go out of style? What skills and values will you embrace and carry throughout your life? You will have to make tough decisions both professionally and personally throughout your entire life. Knowing what you truly value will help guide you in the right direction." I'm proud of this year's seniors. I wish them all the best in the next chapter of their lives, and hope they come back to visit and let us know what they're doing and how life is unfolding for them. Those are a bucket-filler for staff who helped them on their educational journeys. Thanks to the many families and friends who provided the critical support they needed to make it this far.