

NORTHWEST SCHOOL
for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children

P.O. BOX 33666
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DECEMBER 2025

LEARNING IN ACTION









LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM:
FIELD TRIPS PROVIDE RICH EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Here at Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children (NWSDHH), we aim to provide students with off-campus learning opportunities (like field trips) that reinforce and build on classroom learning. We are so fortunate to have several partners in the community that help facilitate these fun and exciting learning experiences for our students!

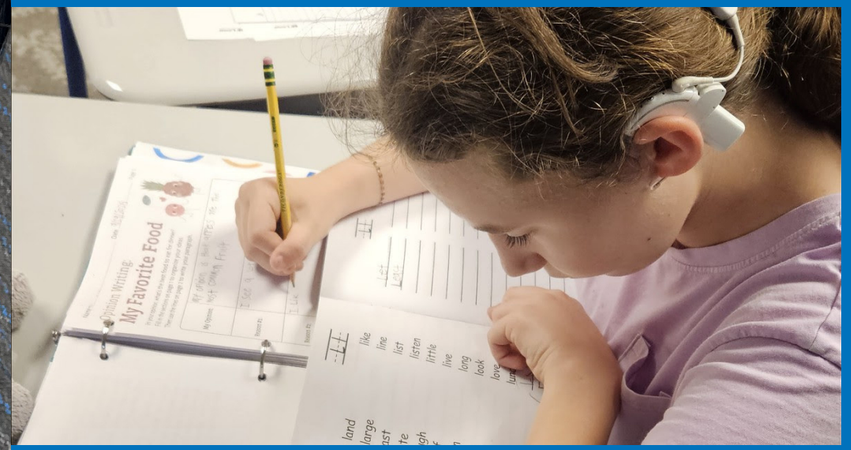
This fall, students visited Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT) to see Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, a performance that highlighted literacy skills across multiple grade levels. We are so grateful for our partnership with SCT, which allows us to bring in our own Signing Exact English (S.E.E.) interpreters, and gives our staff early access to the scripts so that interpreters can ensure they know all the vocabulary and provide the best-possible experience for our students!

Climbing to new heights on the playground or maneuvering the tightrope, helps students build strength and confidence that will transfer to all areas of their development!

On a recent trip to Woodland Park Zoo, our middle school students' English Language Arts curriculum was brought to life – the students have been learning about nature's network and survival. At Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm, our preschool students applied learning from their "Trees" unit of study, while elementary grades experienced hands-on learning connected to their English Language Arts curriculum, including lessons about visiting a farm and learning all about soil and how things grow.

Off-campus learning has also helped our students develop and deepen skills in ways that cannot be replicated in the classroom. Our preschool classes' trips to Richland Park and our elementary and middle school's visits to School for Acrobatics and New Circus Arts have helped the students' progress in their physical and social-emotional development. Climbing to new heights on the playground or maneuvering the tightrope, helps students build strength and confidence that will transfer to all areas of their development!

BECOME A SUPPORTER!



NWSDHH relies on the generosity of our community to enable us to deliver high quality education and programs for Western Washington's deaf and hard-of-hearing (D/HH) children. With your support, we can provide a safe and caring learning environment with the tools and expertise to help D/HH kids and their families succeed. Because of you, the children we serve are given the opportunity to reach their full potential!

Help us serve more children today! Donate using the QR code or visit:
www.northwestschool.com/donate/

STAY IN TOUCH

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NWSDHH PROFILE: MEET KERVON 'KORXCN' MONSEGUE







Meet Kervon 'Korxcn' Monsegue, a wonderful young man who has attended Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children (NWSDHH) since kindergarten. This year, he graduates from 8th grade, moving onto high school. Kervon lives with his sister, Tyler Berridge-Blanc and his brother-in-law, Irwin Blanc. He came to live with them in 2017 and they have been his guardians ever since.

"Sometimes I tell myself that I did not choose this part of life, but it chose me," said Tyler. "In September 2017, weeks after Kervon turned six years old, hurricane Maria ravaged through our home island of Dominica. Before hurricane Maria, I already knew Dominica did not have the resources to help Kervon thrive as a child who is deaf. When the hurricane hit, I was asked to take in Kervon. It was not a decision I took lightly, but my husband and I said yes. Kervon came to live with us in October 2017, and he has been with us ever since."

Upon arriving in the United States, Tyler began searching for the best educational environment to serve Kervon's needs. "When I had my first email exchange with Barbara Luetke, then NWSDHH's Literacy Specialist, we clicked instantly. I felt like I was making the right decision for Kervon and our family. Everyone wanted to work with him and believed they had what it took to help him thrive, and they were right! Everything about Kervon changed once he started at NWSDHH. I had never seen someone so happy to go to school every single day. On his first day he returned home a new child, with such eagerness in his eyes. I knew he was where he needed to be. A few days after starting school, he came home and pointed to himself and said, "Me, Kervon," and signed his name for me. He had the biggest smile on his face. Those two words meant so much to me, because I knew he was thriving and learning."

Kervon agrees, NWSDHH is a place where he can learn and feel comfortable in his own skin. "My favorite thing about going to school at NWSDHH is that I get to be around my friends and peers who are like me but in their own unique way. We share one thing in common and that is we all have some degree of hearing loss and use Signing Exact English (S.E.E.) to communicate with each other."

"Your child will never walk alone. NWSDHH is truly like a family."





Now that his time at NWSDHH is coming to end, Tyler is looking back on the experience with gratitude. "When I reflect on Kervon's growth from kindergarten to 8th grade, his journey has been a powerful one. Before he came to NWSDHH, his main form of communication was through gestures. We did not understand each other, and we would both get frustrated. After a few weeks at school, so much had changed. He would come home and teach me the signs he had learned and would speak to me, even if his speech was not clear. He always kept on trying. He went from someone with whom I could not fully communicate to someone who gives me the best advice. I call him my free therapist. He has grown into a confident and expressive young man. Once he had the tools to access learning, his curiosity, intelligence, and critical thinking were undeniable." The whole family felt they had found an educational home, where they could learn and thrive together. "NWSDHH is a really good place," said Kervon. "The best part is, you are not the only hard-of-hearing kid in the class and you make friends who just get it. The teachers and staff are awesome. Going to school gave me the confidence I needed because I got to learn all the things that other kids are learning but in a way that worked for me."

As they prepare for the next phase of Kervon's education, Tyler wants to offer advice to other families who might be considering enrolling their child in NWSDHH. "Do not wait. Your child will never walk alone. NWSDHH is truly like a family. You will feel supported, and your child will be supported. The community there is everything, and the staff, incredible. Once you visit this school, you will understand right away what makes it so special."

We are so proud of the smart and kind person Kervon has grown up to be, and we cannot wait to see what his future holds!

DONOR PROFILE: MEET JOSEPH CHOI & THAO DIEP





Joseph Choi and Thao Diep's story of getting involved with Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children (NWSDHH) probably sounds familiar, because many of us first came to the school in a similar way. The family learned about NWSDHH when their son, Nicholas, was diagnosed with 100% hearing loss in his right ear in April 2022. After they interviewed with all the birth-to-three programs in Washington, Family Conversations (FC) stood out, thanks to an impactful meeting with the program's since retired director, Merri McBride.

Since that first conversation in 2022, the FC program has been pivotal in navigating Nicholas' hearing and speech challenges, through advocacy, resources, and building a community for reassurance and support. The program's community gatherings hold a special place in the family's hearts. At their first group event, Merri ran up and greeted them. This interaction left a lasting mark on the family and gave them an overwhelming sense of welcome.

Joseph and Thao were inspired to give monthly because, "We wanted to give back to FC. Shyla Geck, our Communication Coach, was probably the most influential ESIT/Birth-3/Early Intervention specialist that we met after Nicholas left the NICU. As a father with unilateral hearing loss, I didn't think there was anything we could do. But, Shyla would visit us every few weeks and show us the studies and techniques to help educate and communicate with Nicholas." After graduating FC, Nicholas went on to attend NWSDHH, where he is currently a preschooler.

"We believe even the littlest of help goes a long way."

When the Choi/Diep family aren't attending FC events and volunteering with NWSDHH, they love exploring the Puget Sound, trying new and exciting foods, and visiting their family favorites – the Woodland Park Zoo and Seattle Aquarium. Through their varied and generous philanthropic giving, they like supporting our country's newest citizens, community elders, and animals in need. Joseph and Thao hope "We can soon get out more and show our kids as they grow the value of helping both people and animals in need. We believe even the littlest of help goes a long way." Through their monthly donation they are doing more than just a little, they're showing a commitment to the longevity of our school and community through their support. Here at NWSDHH, we'd like to give them a big thank you for their caring support!

Joseph and Thao donate monthly to NWSDHH through Joseph's employer, AT&T, who also match the donation – doubling their contribution and furthering their impact! If you're interested in becoming a monthly donor, ask your employer about workplace giving and if they match! We love our amazing giving community!

To join the community and become a monthly donor yourself, visit:
www.northwestschool.com/donate

DID YOU KNOW?



FAMILY CONVERSATIONS (BIRTH-TO-3 PROGRAM) OFFERS:

Family Conversations (FC), NWSDHH's birth-to-three program, offers a total communication approach that integrates simultaneous signing, speaking, and listening. We use a strengths-based approach to support children's progress and help reach developmental milestones. Learning language early is integral to a child's ability to read and write, do well in school, make social connections, and form fulfilling family relationships.

For families enrolled in FC, we provide:

- **Home Visits:** Routine family visits with a Communication Coach to help foster a foundation for language development and communication.
- **Literacy Kits:** Themed lessons to help enhance children's language learning.
- **S.E.E. Classes:** Online evening classes and weekend workshops to help families learn Signing Exact English (S.E.E.).
- **Promoting First Relationships Program:** A parenting program to support attachment between caregivers and children.
- **Spanish-Speaking Families:** Bilingual staff to lead home visits in Spanish and gather Spanish-speaking families together for weekend events.

To learn more about FC, please visit:
www.northwestschool.com/family-conversations



YEAR-END GIVING

As 2025 comes to an end, we want to take a look back. Thanks to the immense support of our community we were able to revamp and expand our library, hire new staff for our growing birth-to-three programs, and create a program to help fund the education and professional development of our staff. Without the support of our giving community, none of this would have been possible. We're able to grow and dream big, thanks to donors like you. Please consider giving a gift before the year ends to help us achieve our goals in the new year!

Make your gift today:
www.northwestschool.com/donate