NORTHWEST SCHOOL
for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children
P.O. BOX 33666
SHORELINE, WA 98133

SEPTEMBER 2026

LEARNING IN ACTION







SUMMER & FALL AT NWSDHH

As we welcome the fall season and all it brings, we reflect on the many happenings of summer. The last several months have been filled with activity, community and preparation!

A few summer highlights include our Extended School Year (ESY) for preschool – eighth grade. Students who attended reviewed important learning and skills, and they had a ton of fun! The Shoreline Fire Department came to our closing session to help us celebrate with an impressive display of waterworks. Thank you, Shoreline Fire Department!

Family Conversations, our birth-to-three program, offered services throughout the summer, visiting families in homes, hosting family group events, preparing three-year-olds for preschool, and welcoming new families into the program.

Our summer Signing Exact English (S.E.E.) classes were filled with families and professionals deepening their signing skills. Our administrative team was onsite supporting our year-round activities and preparing for the coming school year.

Meanwhile, our 26-27 school year has begun with wonderful enthusiasm. We are inspired by our instructional teams, and we love seeing staff and students back together. We look forward to hosting a Fall Festival, bringing together families across our programs while celebrating 50 years of Family Conversations! We will also launch more S.E.E. classes on October 5th.

As we move into this new school year, we are so grateful for each of you. Thank you for being part of the community that makes all of this possible!

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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WE ARE THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS CHAMPIONS!







Last year (during the 2025-26 school year) Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children (NWSDHH) students participated in Gallaudet University Youth Program's Battle of the Books competition. Gallaudet University is a bilingual ASL and English university for deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) students and hearing students pursuing careers related to D/HH communities, and their Battle of the Books competition is open to fifth to eighth grade D/HH students worldwide. There were three divisions for different reading levels – this year NWSDHH competed in the Blue Division, for readers who read at fifth and sixth-grade reading levels.

NWSDHH started the competition last November and competed against 20 middle schools during the preliminary round. To advance to the playoffs, the top 12 middle schools were selected. NWSDHH worked hard and made it to the top 12! To advance to the Nationals, which was held at Gallaudet University, only the top six schools were selected. Despite the rigorous competition, NWSDHH prevailed and made the top six – winning the team a trip to compete in the National Battle of the Books competition at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.!

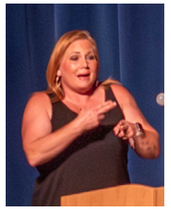
Our team flew out right before Spring Break. They stayed at the beautiful Kellogg Hotel, which is located on the campus of Gallaudet University. They visited the Starbucks Signing Store in Washington, D.C. (a first of its kind in the nation), the National Mall and the Washington Monument, the Capitol, the Smithsonian Museum, the Museum of Natural History, and explored Chinatown and Gallaudet's campus.

The first day of the competition was the Round-Robin Matches. Our team played four matches, winning three. Match five determined the top two schools, who would automatically advance to the semi-finals in the tournament. Our players worked hard and won the last match! They waited with bated breath to see if they were seeded in the top two for the tournament, and got the number two seed, advancing to the semi-finals!

In the semi-final, our team played against the Indiana School for the Deaf, who defeated NWSDHH in the Bison Division Championship last year. The players played hard, achieving a 41-33 victory, and made it to the championship! In Gallaudet University's Battle of the Books' history, NWSDHH made its first-ever appearance at the National Battle of the Books and climbed all the way up to the championship match. Finally, NWSDHH played against California School for the Deaf-Riverside – and won the 2026 National Battle of the Books championship! We are so proud of our team, and we love having an opportunity to show the world how well Signing Exact English (S.E.E.) and literacy skills go hand-in-hand.

Congratulations again to team NWSDHH!

NWSDHH PROFILE: MEET ANGEL SCOTT



Angel Scott (formerly Konopinski) is a proud NWSDHH alumna and former board member, and currently serves as Controller for an excavation company in Snohomish. She lives in Granite Falls with her 15-year-old daughter, husband, and four dogs. Angel also gives back to the community as Vice President of Camp Taloali, a Deaf camp in Stayton, Oregon. The following is the inspiring commencement speech she gave at our 8th grade graduation in June.

Good evening graduates, families, teachers, and the incredible community that fills this room with pride. My name is Angel and I stand here not just as your speaker, but as someone who once sat exactly where you are. I graduated from this very school back in 1989 — long before smartphones, video relay, or captions on every platform. But even then, this school gave me something powerful: a place where being Deaf was not a limitation, but a source of strength.

Today is not just about finishing 8th grade. It's about everything you've learned that doesn't show up on a report card:

- How to advocate for yourself
- How to communicate in more than one language
- How to build community
- How to adapt in a world that doesn't always adapt to you

These are superpowers. Not everyone has them. You do.

When I was here in the late '80s, the world was different. Access was harder. Technology was limited. But the Deaf community — our community — has always been creative, resilient, and unstoppable.

You are stepping into a world where:

- Sign language is celebrated
- Deaf creators are everywhere
- Accessibility is improving
- And your voices — your hands — are being seen

You are not entering the world alone. You are entering it as part of a long line of Deaf people who have shaped culture, language, and history.

High school will challenge you. It will stretch you. It will introduce you to new people, new ideas, and new opportunities. But remember this: You already know how to overcome obstacles. You've been doing it your whole life. And every time you choose to show up, communicate, advocate, and connect — you're building a future that is bigger than anything you can imagine right now.

To the teachers, interpreters, staff, and families: thank you for believing in these students. Thank you for giving them language, access, and encouragement. Thank you for building the foundation they will stand on for the rest of their lives.

If I could go back and talk to my 8th-grade self in 1989, I'd say: **"Your Deaf identity will take you farther than you think. Don't hide it. Don't shrink it. Lead with it."**

So, to the Class of 2026, I say this: **Be proud. Be bold. Be Deaf. The world needs your hands, your voice, your vision. Congratulations — your future starts now.**

JOIN US FOR OUR FALL FESTIVAL!

YOU ARE INVITED: We are hosting our first-ever Fall Festival! Celebrate a new school year at NWSDHH and Family Conversations' (birth-to-three) 50th year anniversary with food trucks, carnival games, kid's activities and more.

WHEN: Saturday, Sept. 26, 11am-2pm

WHERE: 15303 Westminster Way N, Shoreline, WA 98133

RSVP:
https://tinyurl.com/NWSDHH-Fall-Festival

Scan here to RSVP

FUNDING THEIR FUTURES

At the start of every school year, we have new students coming through our doors, eager to learn, make new friends, and grow. Through Signing Exact English (S.E.E.), our students are given a robust foundation in English with access to sign, reading, writing, and spoken English.

"NWSDHH taught me that I can have a great life...I can read, write, and communicate. Learning S.E.E gave me a voice to advocate for myself." -Kervon "Korxcn" Monsegue, former student

With specialized staff, equipment and educational services, support from our donor community is an essential part of each student's learning journey. Together with you, we ensure the children we serve have everything they need to thrive.

Please consider making a donation today to help fund the next generation of students:
www.northwestschool.com/donate