

# Welcome to the ILA!



THE  
INTERGENERATIONAL  
LEARNING ALLIANCE

Learning boldly, together.



# Intergenerational Community

**INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY** Older adults in Whatcom County report feeling isolated and some have difficulty accessing social opportunities, community, services and information. Approximately 10% of our older adults live alone (3,814 individuals in Whatcom County). **Our current community structures do not easily allow for organic intergenerational connections between children and younger adults with elders. Research shows that both youth and older adults benefit from intergenerational relationships that offer support, mutual learning, and shared meaning. Purpose and strong social interaction at all ages lead to increased longevity and improved health outcomes.** In Whatcom County specifically, of the approximately 300 individuals surveyed, the number one theme when asked "what's most important" was interaction, relationships, and connection.

# The Big Picture

The Intergenerational Learning Alliance (ILA) is a program within the Whatcom Intergenerational High School structure, and thus aligns with the WIHS mission and vision. The ILA means to do this by connecting our students with community members of our broader Whatcom community, who span generations and may have distinct insights, skills, and knowledge to share. By connecting generations, we strive to broaden our community's perspectives and experiences, and thus contribute to growth in compassion, generosity, critical consciousness, and deepened inquiry skills for us all. The Intergenerational Learning Alliance is also deeply committed to centering our humanity as individuals by re-learning the importance of emotional, social, cultural, spiritual, and physical *care*. In this way, we can support each other across generations.



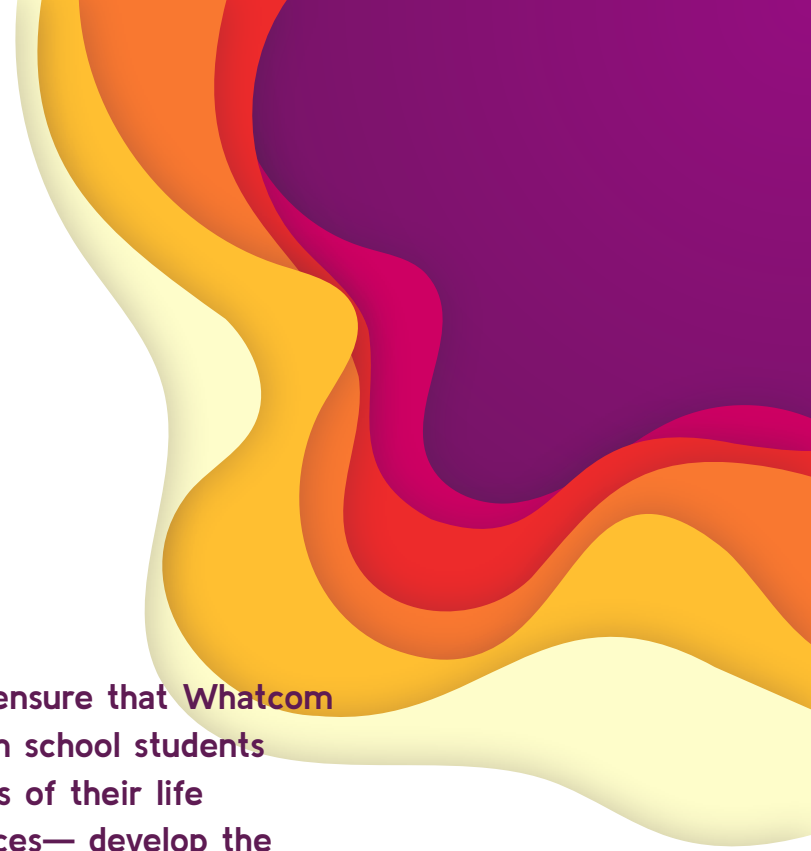
# Mission and Vision Statement

## Mission:

WIHS envisions learning designed with students and supported by elders (allies) generating deep inquiry skills, thoughtful interactions, and critical consciousness, ensuring every young person can contribute to a more just and sustainable world.

## Vision:

WIHS will ensure that Whatcom County high school students—regardless of their life circumstances—develop the competencies and agency for success in college, career, and life



# The Ally Role - Allies give 2-4 hours day one or two days a week

- Meeting with students and other allies to build relationship.
- Attend gatherings like Morning Circles, Phenomenal Learning, Community Showcases, Off Campus Activities
- Maintaining regular contact with students and their projects.
- Engaging in Wellness tools such as the First People's Principle of Learning, Phenomena Based Learning, High School and Beyond planning.
- One on One work with "Running Start" students.





Questions?

## Next Steps

- Contact Diana Chids 360-543-8011 or [diana.chids@intergenerational.school](mailto:diana.chids@intergenerational.school)
- Set up a time to come visit our school
  - Currently proof of vaccination and masking are required
- Complete the Interest Form, which includes authorization for a background check
- Complete the training (approximately 2 hours on 4 separate days)
- Decide when and where you would like to be in the program
- Enjoy being a part of the WIHS family.

