

May 16, 2018

TO: Ron Thiele, Superintendent
Josh Almy, Deputy Superintendent
Paula Phelps, Executive Director, High Schools
Issaquah School District Board of Directors

FROM: Andrea McCormick, Principal

RE: Naming Issaquah High's Performance Arts Center

I am thrilled to provide some background on Doug Longman, Orchestra teacher at Issaquah High School, and to share some of the input we received from the community regarding naming our PAC after him.

Doug Longman is set to retire on June 30th after 42 years of service. Doug started teaching Orchestra at Issaquah High School in 1978. He's put on hundreds of concerts, helped out with dozens of musical performances and much, much more. Years ago, Doug decided to develop Evergreen, an Orchestra program that spans the district and advances students' interests and skills in the arts. Doug has contributed to major fundraising over the years in order to enrich the experience for our music students.

Doug has earned countless accolades over the years including Rotary's Educator of the Year, PTSA Outstanding Educator of the Year, Instructional Leader of the Month at Issaquah High, and the highest of honors at numerous music competitions.

When Issaquah High School was rebuilt, Doug played a major role in the PAC design. Since its opening, he can always be spotted working here late at night, during the summer, and on weekends doing various projects to improve the experience for students and audiences alike. Whether it is building better stairs to get on/off the stage, building a light box for the student to see the panels better during concerts or shows, or other work to support student growth – Doug has been living in this PAC for 40 years.

When discussing the possibility of naming the PAC after Mr. Longman and soliciting community input, the response was overwhelming. Just a few of the comments are as follows:

- "Doug has set the standard for instrumental music education in the ISD. He's started and grown strong programs that perform in and around the community. He has been a driving force behind many great contributions to the school including a Steinway full grand piano at Issaquah High. His dedication to our students in the district should not go unrecognized" – Pat Holen, IHS Band teacher
- "I had the privilege of learning directly from Doug from sixth through twelfth grade. He modeled how to inspire excellence in your students by setting a high standard and then encouraging it through humor and professionalism. I do what I do every day because of Doug Longman. My goal is to give my students the same type of musical experience that I had in Doug's classes. Orchestra was the place where I excelled and where I was 'safe' to be myself. It gave me opportunities for travel, learning, and friendship that I treasure to this day." – Valerie Harris, Evergreen alumni, current parent, and Orchestra teacher @ Eastlake High
- "Mr. Longman has been a great teacher all throughout my high school time. First, I have known about him from middle school because of the prestigious nature of Evergreen Philharmonic and I wanted to be

a member. He has made the orchestra program so grand and incredibly successful. He has worked hard as an orchestra teacher for 40+ years and I believe that the theatre should be named after him. He has done so much for me, it cannot be described in words” - Tony An, current 12th grader

- “Mr. Longman has been such an amazing contributor to Issaquah High School’s music department. He brings creativity, humor, and of course music to life in class. He makes orchestra both fun and productive. We’ve accomplished great things with him guiding us: from accompanying soloists to learning difficult symphonies, it is all thanks to his creative, productive and entertaining teaching style. Because of Mr. Longman, Evergreen Philharmonic has been a success, a joy to play in and we are all so disappointed to see him leave. However, he has left a strong, lasting legacy in the Orchestra and IHS music program”- Anna Kieswetter, current 9th grader
- “Doug Longman has dedicated his teaching career to positively impacting his students’ ability to perform beautiful orchestral music at the highest possible level. His attention to detail and his insistence on greatness in the fine art of music has been experienced at Issaquah High School and well into the Issaquah community for many years. With such a commitment to excellence, I have always been impressed with Doug and how he accomplishes all of this while demonstrating patience and politeness with a remarkably warm and calming demeanor.”- Buddy Bland, IHS colleague for 20 years
- “Doug Longman was a wonderful teacher and is an excellent musician. Because of his inspiration I’ve continued playing double bass after high school in the Sammamish Symphony. This would not have occurred without an amazing teacher like Mr. Longman.” - Jared Tannenberg, Evergreen alumni 1999
- “Doug Longman’s creation of the Evergreen Philharmonic has not only profoundly touched hundreds of students, but also the Issaquah community. His legacy will be felt for years to come.” – Holly Whiting, IHS Theatre teacher

Everyone we talk to essentially reports without hesitation, “yes!”. There is no one more deserving of this honor. He has given endless hours to this school, students in this district, and the community. Students, parents, colleagues and alumni all agree that letting his legacy live on in IHS theatre is the best way to honor him.

I look forward to answering any questions the Board may have about this recommendation at the May 23rd board meeting.

Sincerely,

Andrea McCormick