

Our 2024 School Innovation Tour    The Issaquah School District (ISD) is committed to fostering innovative educational practices that prepare students for a rapidly changing world. On February 29, 2024, a dedicated team of district leaders, including Principal of Secondary Innovation Julia Bamba, toured the Highline and Tacoma School Districts to explore inspiring learning environments in our region and gather ideas for transforming education in our district. The resulting video, "Our 2024 School Innovation Tour," documents this journey. It offers real-world examples of what's possible when schools prioritize student engagement, equity, and authentic learning. Woven through the video are transparent glimpses into internal district discussion and work underway exploring creative and equitable ways to expand student choice and voice within our schools.    The primary purpose of this video is to share the insights and discoveries from the tour with a broad audience    district families, teachers and staff, and community members    and spark a district-wide conversation about the programs todays students need to thrive in a changing world. By featuring voices of students and educators from the visited schools, the video grounds abstract concepts in real-world examples, making the expansion of innovative programs feel necessary, tangible and achievable.    "Our 2024 School Innovation Tour" appeared on the Issaquah School District's social media channels, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, X and our website. The YouTube version features subtitles in our four most-popular languages: English, Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), and Korean. The video was released in May 2024, coinciding with videos documenting the work of our Bond Advisory Committee, a team comprised of over 60 community members who ultimately recommended funding for expanded high school programming in our November 2024 bond initiative.

    This video supports effective communication by translating complex ideas into a compelling visual narrative. We see students showcase a solar car built and piloted by Aviation High School students, see Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) built by Science and Math Institute (SAMI) students, and hear the collective passion for hands-on learning supported by a deep sense of belonging. These concrete examples, amplified by student voices, resonate more deeply than abstract descriptions. The video's structure, guided by Julia Bamba's insightful commentary, provides a cohesive framework for understanding the "Look Fors" that guided the tour: inspiring learning environments;

strong mission and culture; meaningful and authentic learning; caring and trusting relationships; and youth voice and choice. The video addresses outcomes by showcasing the tangible benefits of innovative practices. We see students who are engaged, empowered, and excited about learning. We hear educators describe the positive impact of community partnerships and flexible learning spaces. As Gibson Ek High School Principal Tonja Reischl reflects, "I was thinking a lot about how they really create experiential learning... they're learning by doing."