

The first Henderson Bay (1972) was called Huloima Wehut (Hue-low-ma Way-hut), an Indian name for “a different way.” The school was housed at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The staff and students would have to pack up their books on Friday so that the Civic Center could run their weekend activities. They would unpack again on Monday. In 1977, the school was in a portable outside of Peninsula High School. A lot of school work was done outside of the actual school building. An example: Jim Baker, who was the head teacher at that time, would teach history by taking students traveling, hiking, and camping in different parts of the state. The school was re-located to another portable. The teachers were the teacher, the counselor, the nurse, the principal. The next moved was to the Administration Building. The school at that time was 3 teachers and 25 students. Kids recruited kids to come! After this, the school moved to the portables where our Technology Dept. is now located. Again, still 3 teachers. At this location, the program grew. We hired two additional teachers but housed them in a different portable at a different spot (near Peninsula High School’s baseball field.) We were then moved to the portables, where the PHS math buildings are now, (approx. 1987) and the school officially became Henderson Bay Alternative High School. Lots changes. A drug and alcohol program was developed and every teacher took the required drug/alcohol classes for certification. Additional staff was added to include a special education teacher and a secretary. Jim Baker was named the first principal of HBHS at this time. We had 5 teachers and 50 students. Through community acceptance (Bond), these portables were remodeled for HBHS. The program took a big jump in 1992 (?) when we were moved to the old Harbor Heights Elementary school on Grandview Street. We remained in this location for 8 or 9 years. We had grown to 13 teachers plus support staff. The student population increased to 180. Mimi Walker became principal in 1995 when Jim Baker retired. Mimi was principal for 3 years and then current principal, Doug Anderson, took over the reins. We endured a leaky, moldy building and finally evacuated in December 2000. School resumed in January 2001 in the lower level at Gig Harbor High School. The offices were located at Hunt and Wollochet and the Teen Parent Program/Daycare was located in the Nazarene Church downtown Gig Harbor.

Our final move just warms our hearts! Our new home at 8402 Skansie Avenue! We’re finally home and all back together under one roof!