



2013-14

Annual School Performance Report

Apollo Elementary School

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<http://connect.issaquah.wednet.edu/elementary/apollo/default.aspx>

Principal Susan Mundell

Welcome

It is extremely rewarding to work in a school and community where student learning is the primary goal. Our committed staff, parent involvement, and community support help to ensure that we reach our mission of developing confident, responsible, creative and continual learners. Thank you for doing your part.

Mission

To develop confident, responsible, creative, and continual learners. We strive to make Apollo a place where people are respected, supported, and challenged.

Demographics

Grades K-5; Enrollment 616; Black 1.6%; Asian 30.5%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0%; Hispanic 12.6%; Pacific Islander 0.2%; Multiracial 7.8%; White 47.3%; Attendance rate 95.7%. Free and reduced lunch 18%.

Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 61.1%; Teachers with National Board Certification 3; Average Years Teaching Experience 6.9.

OSPI data

In March 2014, the U.S. Department of Education declined to renew the state of Washington's conditional Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver for schools receiving Title I, Part A funds. This decision affects all schools in Washington State, which are now subject to the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Washington is the only state that has lost its waiver and must revert to NCLB standards and timelines of assessment. For schools and districts to be considered succeeding under NCLB, schools must meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards. For schools to meet AYP, 100 percent of all students, regardless of special needs or English language mastery, must meet proficiency standards. Apollo did not meet AYP this year. For complete information about the Issaquah School District's assessment data, highly qualified teachers, annual yearly progress, and state NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) results, please visit the [state's online district report card](#).

District report

For budget details and more go to www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/CommunityReport/

The Issaquah School District believes in seeking continual feedback from a broad and diverse range of constituents regarding their experiences with the District and their neighborhood school. See the Community Polling Study site at www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/polling.aspx for more information and survey results.

Highlights

- Apollo Elementary School is a positive, encouraging place to be and learn. Our students leave our halls with a solid academic foundation.
- Mathematics is a current area of focus for our teachers. We work in professional learning communities to collaboratively understand how to best meet our students' needs. Within the broad topic of mathematics we focus on differentiation, procedural fluency, problem solving and mathematical communication.
- Developing readers and writers will always be important at



With the help of her teacher, this student selected numerous books for summer reading.

Issaquah School District—Apollo Elementary School

more Highlights...

Apollo. Writing celebrations occur across grade levels several times a year. Reading growth is closely monitored and instruction is targeted to individual student needs, though guided reading groups, independent reading, student teacher conferences and Title I services.

- An integral part of our reading focus is ensuring that students do not lose progress made in reading over the summer. Our summer reading program provides self-selected, motivating books to many students for summer reading.
- We are a school that welcomes all students and families. We are unique in that we house many district programs and so in turn we are able to meet the needs of all students who enter our doors—from those who qualify for special services to those who qualify for the gifted classrooms.
- Our students represent a diverse demographic both socioeconomically and ethnically. We strive to celebrate this diversity. Families are invited to decorate our display case for special traditions or holidays from around the world. The PTA organizes a yearly Multicultural Night, which is the highlight event of the year.
- With our Rocket Recognition program, all students have the opportunity to be recognized for positive character traits and academic thinking habits. Any staff member can nominate a student. Each week students' names are announced over the intercom, the principal publically recognizes their accomplishments in the classroom, and a picture and certificate is placed on the principal's bulletin board. Themes include Complex Thinker, Quality Producer, and Community Contributor.
- Student behavior is guided by Apollo's Positive Behavior Expectations which are: Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe. Students are taught these expectations as well as bullying prevention throughout the year.
- Apollo's classrooms are equipped with a variety of technology including ActivBoards in every classroom from kindergarten to fifth grade. Our students and teachers utilize these boards to make learning come alive. We also use ActiVotes to aid in quick response to assessments in the classroom. Many teachers are beginning to use iPads and laptops as well. Technology helps to keep classroom interest and excitement high.
- Apollo students benefit from strong community involvement. Our active PTA raises money, sponsors events, conducts enriching programs, and works diligently to increase our community and parent involvement. This year the PTA has applied for a PTA of Excellence Award in the areas of ELL and Diversity, Advocacy and Empowerment, and Community Engagement. The PTA hosts many family events like, Science Fair, Spring Fling, and Multi-cultural Night.
- We have partnerships with many community organizations such as the Issaquah Schools Foundation, the Kiwanis and local churches. District middle and high school students also contribute to the learning community at Apollo by serving as tutors in our Wednesday morning tutoring program and as volunteers at special events.

Improving student achievement

Mathematics is a current area of focus for our teachers. We work in professional learning communities to collaboratively understand how to best meet our students' needs. Within the broad topic of mathematics we focus on differentiation, procedural fluency, problem solving and mathematical communication.

Special programs

Apollo hosts two special district programs. We are fortunate to be the south end site for those students who qualify for the district self-contained special education program, LRC II, and for those who qualify for MERLIN, the Highly Capable/Gifted self-contained program for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.

Before/after school

Apollo has a variety of before and after school programs including, Student Council for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, choir, and several math clubs. We host Eastside Enrichment classes for art, chess, and robotics. SPONGE Language school offers Spanish and Mandarin classes after school on Wednesdays for Apollo students. Rocket Club is Apollo's on-site, before and after school, tuition-based school-age care program.

Just so you know...

Constructing Excellence is our motto for everything including a construction project this year that provided us with eight new classrooms, multiple activity areas, an expanded multipurpose room and a revitalized play field. Apollo is a school of acceptance and pride. Our students are comfortable with their teachers and staff. We are proud to say that our students and their families feel safe, welcomed, and encouraged here at Apollo.



First grade student writing informational text about foxes.

Issaquah School District—Apollo Elementary School

Assessment

Two tests given to elementary school students—The Stanford 10 Achievement Test and the Measurement of Student Progress (MSP)—help indicate how well Issaquah students are learning.

Stanford 10

The Stanford 10 is a national test that the district administers to students in grades 1, 2, and 5. It shows how well Issaquah students are learning compared to a representative group of other students in the country (the norm group). Issaquah Stanford 10 scores are compared to the norm group scores and are reported as a percentile rank. Students who earn a score of 70, for example, can say that they scored higher than 70% of the norm group.

In 2012 the norm group changed to a more current sample. Generally speaking, the new norm group was more representative of the nation as a whole and produced a “tougher” norm to which our Issaquah School District students are now compared. Therefore, last year we expected to see lower average scores at the school and district level than the year before, when there was a less rigorous norm. This year’s scores can be compared to last year’s and, moving forward, we will be able to notice trends in performance.

Grade level

Total Reading

Total Math

| 1/District | 2/District | 5/District |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 53/64 | 56/63 | 79/77 |
| 56/67 | 66/74 | 85/84 |

MSP

The MSP is an exam developed by and mandated by the state; it replaced the state’s original annual exam, the WASL, in spring 2010. Washington’s education reform efforts began in 1993 and involve annual state-specific tests for students in grades 3-8 in reading, writing, math, and science (MSP) and then again in grade 10 (High School Proficiency Exams in reading and writing and End of Course assessments in math and biology). MSP goes beyond multiple choice tests like the Stanford 10. The tests are much shorter than the WASL and include multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Four-point essay questions have been eliminated on reading, math and science tests. This change allows students to show they are able to solve the problems, while not being scored on their writing ability on the math, reading and science tests.

Besides being a state test rather than a national assessment, MSP results are reported differently. Each student either “Meets Standard,” “Exceeds Standard,” or “Does Not Meet Standard” in each subject—reading, math, writing, science—and subjects tested vary among grade levels. MSP scores do not compare students to other students; instead they show the learning level of each student as compared to the state’s expectations for a well-taught student at that grade level.

MSP results help parents know how well each student is meeting learning targets, and the results help schools plan instruction and curriculum focused on these learning targets. Numbers represent percentage meeting or exceeding standard.

Grade level

Reading

Writing

Math

Science

| 3 | District/State | 4 | District/State | 5 | District/State |
|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|
| 86.4 | 88.3/72.0 | 83.6 | 87.9/70.0 | 86.4 | 88.3/72.4 |
| n/a | n/a | 75.0 | 83.2/62.1 | n/a | n/a |
| 78.3 | 83.9/63.0 | 73.9 | 85.9/60.8 | 83.1 | 83.2/63.5 |
| n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 81.3 | 83.8/66.8 |