



Focus

on the Annual
Community Report

Look inside the Issaquah School District—
without leaving home!

Click on “Annual Community Report” at www.issaquah.wednet.edu and browse through the high-level overview of the District’s academics, finances, and programs and services. Here are a few of the facts and figures you can access in the Community Report:

Basics

- Mission: All students will be prepared for and eager to accept the academic, occupational, personal, and practical challenges of life in a dynamic global environment.
- Enrollment: 17,297 headcount
- Free or reduced lunch: 9.9%
- Number of schools: 24, plus an educational program at Echo Glen School
- Boundary area: 110 square miles
- Number of certificated staff (teachers): 1,058 headcount
- Teachers with at least a master’s degree: 70.4%
- Number of total staff: 1,880 headcount

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Academics

- On-time graduation rate: 95.6%
- Stanford achievement test—rank of average ninth-grade math scores: 88th percentile
- Stanford achievement test—rank of average ninth-grade reading scores: 81st percentile
- Meeting standard on High School Proficiency Exam: Reading 94.7% (82.6%—state); Writing 96% (86.3%—state); Science 77.9% (49.9%—state)
- Meeting standard on Algebra EOC assessment: 86.2% (64.3%—state); on Geometry EOC assessment: 90.9% (73.5%—state)
- Mean composite SAT score: 1703 (1560—state; 1500—nation)
- Mean composite ACT score: 25.1 (22.8—state; 21.1—nation)
- 11th and 12th grade students enrolled in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and/or College in the High School courses: 57.6%

Programs and Services

- Special-education student demographic: 9.7%
- Transitional-bilingual (ELL) student demographic: 4.0%
- Services for struggling students: summer school, mentoring, extra staff support, remedial reading, student learning plans, before- and after-school tutoring, Night Academy, transition program, and more
- Services for excelling students: MERLIN, SAGE, exceptional placement, Honor Society, College in the High School, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and more

Finances

- Projected 2011-2012 operations revenue: \$158,636,619 (60.9% from the state; 22.0% from local levy; 12.7% from tuition and fees; 4.1% from the federal government)
- Projected 2011-2012 operations expenditures: \$161,565,883 (61.4% for the classroom; 13.2% for student support; 9.6% for special education; 7.5% for other grants/programs; 4.3% for transportation; 4% for food service and Echo Glen [fully funded by the state])
- Rank of spending on administration among King County school district: Lowest
- State-level revenue reductions in past three years: \$16 million
- Cost to run the district per school day: \$897,588
- Cost to run the district per minute during the school year: \$1,870

Want more?

Click on “Annual Community Report” on the District’s homepage, www.issaquah.wednet.edu. For individual school reports including progress toward annual goals and staff qualifications, select “Our Schools” from the homepage, choose your school, and access the report card from the right-hand column.



Today's kindergartners, tomorrow's graduates

Take the kindergartners of today and fast forward 5,000 days, the length of their elementary, middle-, and high-school education: Will those same children be confident graduates ready to tackle their dreams? How will they have been shaped by their successes and challenges? What will they look like? Who will they be?

The Issaquah School District is about to find out, thanks to the newly launched 5,000 Days Project. This video endeavor follows the lives of a diverse group of students as they progress through each grade to their diploma. The participants are interviewed and filmed at school and play annually, culminating in a cohesive video documentary for each graduating participant.

Ultimately, the documentaries should help the school board, superintendent, and community deeply understand how well they are serving Issaquah students. The District has an overarching set of Ends learning goals that stretch far beyond academics; they encompass

the 5000 days project

Collin
7th Grade
Beaver Lake Middle School

6th Grade Questionnaire

What is your best memory from this school year?
Going to Washington DC with my Dad over spring break where I got to meet Sen. Murray. I also got to see the Alamo this summer.

What was your biggest challenge this school year?
Keeping good grades (completing and turning in my homework)

What was your biggest success this school year?
Surviving 6th grade and making it to first class in Boy Scouts.

What is one thing you learned from this school year that you will never forget?
I love learning about single celled organisms in Science class.

What piece of clothing or accessory did

the mental, emotional, physical, and social preparedness of students to live successful, satisfying lives. No standardized test can assess such goals. The 5,000 Days documentaries, on the other hand, will provide a way to follow the complex school/life experience alongside the participating students.

Today's classrooms are multifaceted, dynamic environments, and the 5,000 Days documentaries will offer a glimpse into them. The result might be a breakdown of stereotypes—both among adults trying to understand what it means to be a young person in today's world and among young people themselves, who often feel isolated because they don't realize that their struggles and fears are shared by many of their peers.

To kick start the project in 2009, about 20 students were selected at various grade levels across the District. Today, the oldest are sophomores whose documentaries will be produced in two years. As they graduate out, new kindergartners will take their place.

Because 5,000 days can be a long time to wait for a documentary, the project is housed on a website where community members can meet the participants. Each participant is invited to contribute pictures, assignments, and other scrapbook-like mementos during the school year to show their progress. When they graduate, this is where their final documentary will be posted, too.

So please take the opportunity to check in with the 5,000 Days Project now and next year and the next and the next ... Who knows where the students' journeys will take them?

To meet the participants, visit www.issaquah.wednet.edu/5000days and view a scrapbook-like slide show of their school years in the Issaquah School District. This is also where their final video documentaries will be posted when they graduate.

Go “all in” for kids



The Issaquah Schools Foundation has kicked off its All in for Kids Annual Fund Campaign (formerly called Calling for Kids) to support ongoing, strategic, District-wide investments that improve schools and ensure all students have the resources required to succeed. Your donation, in any amount, will fund programs and initiatives that enrich education for every child, in every classroom, every year.

For instance, \$5 a month will improve literacy comprehension for six elementary students through a take-home reading program; \$10 a month provides 15 eighth-graders the opportunity to learn life-long money management skills through financial literacy classes. As the state continues to severely cut school funding, these local dollars are more important than ever to provide our children with the educational experiences they need and deserve.

Students will call all District families to support the campaign the evenings of November 16 and 17 and the morning of November 19. Save them the call by donating online before November 4 at www.isfdn.org.

Annual legal notice: Discrimination

The Issaquah School District provides equal opportunity in its programs, activities, and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race; color; national origin/language; creed/religion; sex; sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity); the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability; age; marital status; honorably discharged veteran or military status; or HIV/Hepatitis C status. The employees to the right have been designated to handle questions and complaints of any such alleged discrimination.

Parent/Volunteer and Employee/ Applicant-Related Issues

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Student-Related Issues

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Around the District

Find out more at www.issaquah.wednet.edu

High School Schedule Committee:

Administrators, parents, staff, and students have formed a committee to study and design a common, optimal schedule for all the District's high schools. Meetings are ongoing through the winter and open to the public.

School board election: Three school board seats—in Director Districts 1, 3, and 5—are up for election in November. While school board members fill region-specific positions, they are voted for and elected District-wide.

Construction bond: The Issaquah School Board has approved a construction bond to go before voters in April 2012. If approved, the bond will cover construction and maintenance needs for all District facilities for the following eight years.

Winter weather: Emergency Transportation Bulletins will soon be in every student's mailbox. Please place this handy resource on your refrigerator and have it ready for when winter weather hits!

Kateri D. Brow Memorial Student Art Collection

Come see Issaquah's least-known fine-art gallery!

With a dramatic unveiling ceremony on September 28, three more pieces were inducted into the Eastside's least-known fine-art gallery—the Kateri D. Brow Memorial Student Art Collection.

“Come take a look!” said Issaquah School District superintendent Steve Rasmussen. “We are very proud of this collection and want to share it widely. It’s an amazing collaboration in which the community reinforces its commitment to the arts, and student artists are validated and encouraged to keep creating.”

With a colorful tree stretching through a gray urban landscape, swirling leaves, and romping piglets, the new mixed-media artworks portray important messages about inclusion and the environment—as well as the fun to be had getting dirty in the mud!

They bring the collection up to a total of 48 visual-art pieces. The gallery began

in 1998 as a tribute to former superintendent Kateri Brow, who championed school art programs during her tenure from 1986 to 1992. Private donors created a fund to allow the District to annually purchase artwork from students and professionally display them for the entire community. Today, the pieces line the walls of the Administration Building, and the superintendent's office encourages educators at every school to submit nominations throughout the year to continue to grow the collection.

The new 2011 acquisitions will be displayed in the main foyer for the next few weeks before being hung in a permanent location in the building.

To view the Kateri D. Brow Memorial Student Art Collection, visit the Administration Building—565 N.W. Holly St., Issaquah—between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays.

Top: Philip Huang, second grade, Cascade Ridge Elementary: “Playing in the Mud”
Center: Hannah Robison, eighth-grade, Beaver Lake Middle School: “Together We Can Find a Rainbow of Color in a World of Black and White”
Bottom: Kerrek Matson, fourth-grade, Clark Elementary: “Saving the Environment”





ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Why am I getting this newsletter?

As a resident of the Issaquah School District, you are an important stakeholder in the education of local children. This newsletter is designed to update you on the work and accomplishments of the District and its students—which contribute to the quality of our community and our future.

Points of Pride A few of the reasons you have to be proud of your schools

It was a rotten day at Issaquah Middle School ...



... in the best possible way! Officials from the City of Issaquah, Cascade Water Alliance, Seattle Tilth, and Cedar Grove Composting were on hand to celebrate the IMS Green Team's organic, sustainable garden of tomatoes, pumpkins, beans, carrots, and more. A Seattle Tilth representative kicked off the events

by showing students a travel-sized worm composting bin, a small replica of what will soon be in place at the school. To prepare for that day, students played the game "Will it Rot?" Some braver students examined the worms close up and combed through the newly minted soil.

Skyline VOICE mentor wins state award

VOICE mentor Joy Abia has been selected as the 2011 Outstanding Mentor by the Washington State Mentors Association. VOICE, Volunteers of Issaquah Changing Education, pairs caring adult mentors with academically and socially at-risk students. It is coordinated through the Issaquah Schools Foundation and the Issaquah School District.

A red letter day at Apollo Elementary School

On October 5, more than 500 Apollo students wore red ribbons and pledged to live healthy, drug-free lives in honor of the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA's) Red Ribbon Campaign. DEA agents and other local officials were there to help celebrate.

Complete stories at www.issaquah.wednet.edu