



2011-12

Annual School Performance Report

Apollo Elementary School

15025 SE 117th Street, Renton, WA 98059

(425) 837-7500

<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 576; Black 2.3%; Asian 30.6%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0.2 %; Hispanic 12.8%; Pacific Islander 0.2%; Multiracial 4.5%; White 49.5%; Attendance rate 95.5%.

Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 63.3%

OSPI data

In July 2012, Washington state received a federal waiver. It replaced *Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)* with *Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO)*. AMO requires that each school and district must reduce by half the number of students who are not proficient in reading and math by 2017.

Apollo Elementary School did not meet Annual Measurable Objectives for the "All Students" group in reading. It met Annual Measurable Objectives for the "All Students" group in math. For complete information about highly qualified teachers, Annual Measurable Objectives, assessment data, and state NAEP results, go to www.issaquah.wednet.edu/schools/elementary/; select Apollo; select state report cards.

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.
- Balanced Literacy and Thinking Skills are current areas of focus for our teachers.
- We are a school that welcomes all students and families. We are unique in that we house all district programs (with the exception of Science/Tech Magnet) 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.

Issaquah School District—Apollo Elementary School

more Highlights...

- 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.
- We are equipped with ActivBoards in every classroom from pre-school 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. Technology helps to keep classroom interest and excitement high.
- Apollo students benefit from strong community involvement. Our active PTA raises money, sponsors events, and conducts enriching programs. We have partnerships with many community organizations such as the Issaquah Schools Foundation, the Masonic Lodge, and the Kiwanis. District middle and high school students also contribute to the learning community at Apollo.

Improving student achievement

The focus for our Continuous Improvement Plan is literacy. We use a balanced literacy approach to teach reading. This approach has four strands, reading aloud, shared reading, guided reading, and independent reading. Our staff development focuses on balanced literacy and writing. Topics include, comprehension/ thinking skills with graphic organizers, building a reflective practice, using writing assessment to drive instruction, curriculum mapping, and more. 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 use.

Special programs

Apollo hosts many special programs. For the youngest students we have an Early Childhood Education Preschool and a Head-Start program. We are also fortunate to be the south end site for those students who qualify for the district self-contained special education program, LRC II. We are also the south end location 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, Drama Club, and Math Clubs. We host Eastside Enrichment Art, Chess, and Tae Kwon Do clubs. Rocket Club is Apollo's on-site, before and after school, tuition-based school-age care program. The PTA hosts many family events like, Science Fair, Spring Fling, and Multi-cultural Night.

Just so you know...

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.



This class of Apollo third graders loves to read!!



Apollo PTA sponsors the very popular Science Fair.

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.

This year, the norm group changed to a more current sample that is more representative of the nation as a whole. This has produced a “tougher” norm to which our Issaquah School District students are being compared. Therefore, we see lower average scores at the school and district level than last year when there was a less rigorous norm. Because of this different norm group and shift in scores, it is important to avoid comparing scores from years past to draw conclusions about changes in performance.

Grade level Total Reading Total Math

1/District	2/District	5/District
48/62	59/66	76/77
61/68	66/78	82/85

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
81.8	83.7/68.7	81.6	87.7/71.4	82.4	87.4/71.0
n/a	n/a	68.4	81.2/61.3	n/a	n/a
85.2	81.8/65.3	77.6	83.6/59.3	74.7	83.9/63.7
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	81.3	85.4/66.1