



2011-12

Annual School Performance Report

Cascade Ridge Elementary School

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Principal Natalie Fowler

Welcome

Involved parents and community members enrich our school and enhance our students' learning experiences. Thanks for making a difference!

Mission

The Cascade Ridge Elementary mission is to challenge, support, and celebrate each student as they learn, work to meet standards, and excel to be their best—both academically and socially.

Demographics

Grades K-5; Enrollment 571; Black 0%; Asian 28.0%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0%; Hispanic 2.8%; Pacific Islander 0%; Multiracial 4.6%; White 64.6%; Attendance rate 96.5%.

Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 47.2%

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.

Cascade Ridge met Annual Measurable Objectives for the "All Students" group in reading and 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 Cascade Ridge; 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

Commitment to student achievement: Staff and parent partnerships focus on quality education and high student achievement for all students. This past year, Cascade Ridge was one of only 53 elementary schools to be honored with the OSPI School of Distinction Award. The award is given for achievement in math and reading. This marks the second time Cascade Ridge has won this award.

Staff collaboration: Staff works collaboratively on a weekly basis to plan and implement quality, rigorous curriculum aligned across the grade levels. Wednesday early release provides staff members time to work as teams, as well as a whole staff, to develop and support school improvement plans. The Continuous

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More highlights ...

Improvement Plan for 2010–2013 focuses on improving reading skills for all students, with an added emphasis on closing the gender gap between boys and girls in literacy.

Emphasis on the whole child: Students benefit from PE, Music and Library specialists instruction to enrich core curriculum each week. In addition, PTSA grants support a dynamic drama program, art docents, science docents and a variety of guest speaker opportunities.

Community and School Partnerships: 100% membership in our PTSA provides a deep and caring commitment to the important partnership between the school and families. Thousands of volunteer hours provide enrichment opportunities, academic support, and social events for all students and families. Staff and PTSA work together to offer a variety of programs for kids focusing on academic support, enrichment, and fun! The PTSA also boasts one of the most comprehensive and informative websites for families.

Improving student achievement

Cascade Ridge's Continuous Improvement Plan focuses on improving reading skills for all students. The desired student outcomes include students understanding how to choose an appropriately leveled book for themselves, students being able to answer higher level questions and apply thinking strategies to facilitate and extend comprehension, students being able to make connections to texts, students reading for pleasure, and students having access to a wide variety of reading materials. In order to reach this goal, we have begun implementing the district's balanced literacy approach and continue to receive staff development around formative reading assessments, guided reading, effective instructional practices of comprehension skills, and higher level questioning strategies.

Special programs

We are proud to host three Learning Resource Center (LRC) classrooms delivering quality education to students with special needs and those needing additional academic support. Reading Explorers offers support for students needing additional help with reading and writing. Highly capable students participate in the SAGE program for additional academic challenge. Cascade Ridge is also home to one of the three elementary Science and Technology Magnet programs in the district for 4th and 5th graders.

Before/after school

Student Council, Safety Patrol, Chorus, Marimba Club, Math Club, Chess Club, Spanish Language Class, and Running Club. We also have a dynamic before and after school child care program—Coyote Club.

What's new

This year marked our inaugural Cascade Ridge Olympics. As an alternative to Field Day, students from different grade levels and classes were mixed and assigned a country. During their PE classes, country representatives competed in eleven different "Olympic events" including Roller Mat Relay, the 50 Yard Dash and Scooter Shuffleboard. Gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded to winning countries with all countries recognized and celebrated at the end of the year assembly.



Science is everywhere at Cascade Ridge! Pictured here are a Cascade Ridge first grader (left) and fourth graders (right) actively engaged in the new science curriculum.

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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
73/62	71/66	83/77
76/68	83/78	90/85

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
87.8	83.7/68.7	93.6	87.7/71.4	90.8	87.4/71.0
n/a	n/a	88.2	81.2/61.3	n/a	n/a
87.8	81.8/65.3	94.5	83.6/59.3	90.0	83.9/63.7
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	85.8	85.4/66.1