



2011-12

# Annual School Performance Report

Discovery Elementary School

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

Principal Tera Coyle

## Welcome

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

## Mission

Discovery is a partnership of students, staff and parents invested in the lifelong learning and rigorous academic achievement of all students.

## Demographics

Grades K-5; Enrollment 599; Black 1.5%; Asian 45.7%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0.2%; Hispanic 4.7%; Pacific Islander 0.3%; Multiracial 2.7%; White 44.9%; Attendance rate 96.5%.

## Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 63.9%

## 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.

Discovery 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/](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/schools/elementary/); select Discovery; select state report cards.

## District report

For budget details and more go to [www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/CommunityReport/](http://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](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/polling.aspx) for more information and survey results.

## Highlights

- A strong partnership between staff and parents helps students to achieve at a high academic standard. We average about 200 parent volunteers each month. In addition, this year we launched the WatchD.O.G.S program that encouraged father-figures to volunteer at Discovery. Over 50 men involved in this program worked in classrooms, with specialists, and helped in the lunchroom and at recess, building relationships with students.
- We are leaders in the field of technology. Every classroom is equipped with computers, a projector and document camera, and Promethean ActivBoard. Many classes are equipped with student response devices (ActiVotes).
- Many students participated in the science fair, family math game night, the talent show, and movie nights. For the first time, we hosted a "Taste of Discovery" evening where families brought a special dish to share and the recipes were collected in a Discovery cook book.
- Global Reading competitors in 4th grade had some exciting competitions and our Green Team continues to promote recycling and composting throughout the school.

# Issaquah School District—Discovery Elementary School

## *more Highlights*

- Some of our students won awards as they represented Discovery in the state Reflections (art) Contest.
- This year our classes participated in learning activities within the Outdoor Educational Areas, including our newly renovated garden. Those areas are being maintained with the help of our Garden Club.
- We recognize and celebrate students who are Cooperative, Assertive, Respectful, Empathetic and Self-Controlled. This CARES program has been successful in encouraging students of all grade levels to be good citizens at school and in our community.
- We are proud of 97% membership in PTSA which supports student learning in countless ways!

## *Improving student achievement*

Discovery's school improvement goal is to have 95% of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students meet standard on the reading MSP in 2014. We are excited to work towards this new building goal since it aligns with the district balanced literacy initiative and also works in tandem with a comprehensive book room that was funded by our PTSA. Some of the research identified strategies that we are focusing on to reach this goal include: explicit instruction in comprehension, decoding, fluency, and thinking strategies. In addition, students will have time to practice reading at both their independent and instructional levels in high-interest texts. Teachers use a variety of assessments, both formal and informal, to inform instruction for whole group, small group, and one-on-one teaching. We developed core beliefs about reading together as a staff and our classrooms reflect these foundational values! Through learning walks, staff is also focusing on higher-level thinking skills and reflecting on how to increase student thinking through a variety of ways. Teachers are involved in book studies, building and district professional development, and are working with a building literacy coach. All of these things are working together to improve what really matters: student learning.

## *Special programs*

Discovery hosts a special needs pre-school; K-5th Resource Room; BEL (Benchmark Enrichment Learning), which we fondly refer to as Reading Club; SAGE, a 3rd-5th grade pull-out gifted program; Math Olympiad; Science to Go lessons with a science specialist, which includes lessons in our outdoor educational areas (wetlands, grade level gardens, butterfly gardens); drawing classes once per month by a professional art consultant; and art classes once per month by our PTSA sponsored docent program.

## *Before/after school*

Our school offers a variety of extracurricular activities. Our community enrichment programs offer classes such as Spanish, Mandarin, drama, chess, and martial arts. We also have an active K-Kids program whose community service projects include feeding the hungry, providing clothes for refugee children, helping children in an orphanage in Bolivia, providing toys for children in emergency situations, the Humane Society, and helping families in need. Global Reading Challenge, Destination Imagination, Running Club, 4th and 5th Grade Math Tutorial, and Student Safety Patrol, are some of the additional activities offered at Discovery. We also have a school-age child care center called Eagle Club, which is an on-site before and after school day care program. In addition, our music teacher provides our 4th and 5th grade students with the opportunity to participate in choir.

*Top: Discovery second graders make a spider web at their "Bug Days" celebration.*

*Bottom: Another popular Science unit for second graders, is learning about shadows—particularly their shadows ...*



# Issaquah School District—Discovery Elementary School

## Assessment

Two tests given to elementary school students—The Stanford 10 Achievement Test and the Measurements 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
69/62	74/66	81/77
71/68	88/78	91/85

## 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 percent-age meeting or exceeding standard.

## Grade level Reading Writing Math Science

3	District/State	4	District/State	5	District/State
85.5	83.7/68.7	85.7	87.7/71.4	89.2	87.4/71.0
n/a	n/a	91.4	81.2/61.3	n/a	n/a
88.2	81.8/65.3	89.5	83.6/59.3	93.2	83.9/63.7
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	91.9	85.4/66.1