



2011-12

Annual School Performance Report

Grand Ridge Elementary School

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

Principal Christy Otley

Welcome

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

Mission

Our students will be of high character, and will be prepared for and eager to accept the academic, personal, and practical challenges of life in their school, community, and ever-changing global environments.

Demographics

Grades K-5; Enrollment 788; Black 1.9%; Asian 34.5%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0%; Hispanic 5.7%; Pacific Islander 0.6%; Multiracial 4.4%; White 52.8%; Attendance rate 96.0%.

Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 63.6%

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.

Grand 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 Grand 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

Grand Ridge which opened in 2006 is perched on a hill offering "grand" sweeping views of the Olympics and Northern Cascades. A state-of-the-art facility including a gymnasium, multi-purpose room, stage, music room, library, computer lab, kiln room, and an outdoor covered play area, Grand Ridge hosts six different grades (K-5) and a highly qualified, certificated faculty. In addition to a full range of academic subjects, all students participate weekly in library, music and physical education. Grand Ridge takes pride in being a culturally diverse school with a very active parent community.

What's new

Environmental Conscientiousness: This year, Grand Ridge reached King County Level Two status and received a grant from the Walmart NEED foundation that has provided the school with solar panels, a WeatherBug (weather-tracking system), and a wind turbine. Students compost and recycle daily and gather batteries for proper disposal. These interesting and varied activities positively influence the environmental awareness of our community.

Issaquah School District—Grand Ridge Elementary School

more ... What's new

Science: This year, the world of science exploded at Grand Ridge. Thanks to a huge community fundraising effort in the spring of 2011 by the Issaquah Schools Foundation and every school's PTSA, this fall every district elementary school received new science curriculum that focuses on best practices. According to one Grand Ridge teacher, "over the year students get to have more hands-on experience with science through plant investigations, building and redesigning vehicles, and creating and monitoring circuits. The new curriculum implements systems, inquiry and the application of science in a more clear and meaningful way." Teachers are doing a fantastic job teaching this new curriculum that allows students' minds to open up to a world of science through hands-on exploration and inquiry. Students are not just learning science, they are "doing" science. The knowledge students gain when they see science at work, can manipulate it, and experience trial and error in it is amazing. This year's Science Fair & Expo was a reflection of the science excitement in our school. For the first time, every fifth grade class presented an exhibit during the Expo, 240 individual students presented their own projects and more than 900 people attended the event.

Improving student achievement

Our Continuous Improvement Plan focuses on improving literacy scores as measured by the MSP and Stanford achievement tests. Staff participate in a wide variety of professional development in literacy and science and our Literacy Support Teacher provides professional development both in and out of the classroom, modeling strategies and best practices. Grade level teams meet and collaborate closely on Wednesday afternoons. On some Wednesdays, grade levels participate in district professional development related to literacy and the new science curriculum. The Grand Ridge STAR team leads teachers on learning walks in classrooms. Teachers look closely for evidence of thinking skills and reflect upon their own practice and how to make thinking skills even more prevalent. Teachers are trained in GLAD strategies that are integrated in all curriculum areas and they work together on a regular basis to analyze and assess student work. This collaboration leads to consistent scoring throughout each grade level. In-depth discussions of student work samples help to improve instructional strategies and increase student learning.

Grand Ridge concentrates on meeting the needs of every student. The school has a Learning Resource Center (LRC) for students with special needs including academic and behavior support, a Reading Club for students needing additional help with reading and writing, and Special Approach to Gifted Education (SAGE) is an educational enrichment program for students in grades 3-5.

Enrichment activities

Grand Ridge offers a wide variety of before or after school extra-curricular activities for students—choir, safety patrol, student council, global reading challenge, media club, boot camp, arts and crafts club, dodgeball, and tuition-based before and after school childcare for students at Grizzly Club. The Grand Ridge PTSA sponsors lots of enriching activities throughout the year such as book swap, science Fair, luau, after school movies, art docents, national PTSA reflections art contest, learning garden, cultural diversity program, and teacher grants. The PTSA held its first ever bi-annual auction to support Science, Music and Art and other PTSA programs.



Browsing at Grand Ridge's popular Book Swap.



The Learning Garden produces lots of learning opportunities and vegetables as shown here by these third graders.



Fourth graders create a "food web" as part of their "Engineering is Elementary" science unit.

Issaquah School District—Grand Ridge 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	66/66	75/77
71/68	80/78	87/85

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
83.9	83.7/68.7	89.2	87.7/71.4	91.7	87.4/71.0
n/a	n/a	78.3	81.2/61.3	n/a	n/a
85.5	81.8/65.3	86.6	83.6/59.3	86.1	83.9/63.7
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	89.3	85.4/66.1