



2011-12

Annual School Performance Report

Pacific Cascade Middle School

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<http://connect.issaquah.wednet.edu/middle/pacificcascade/default.aspx>

Principal Dana Bailey

Welcome

Involvement of parents and community members enriches our school and makes it a premier middle level learning institution. Thanks for making a difference!

Mission

Connecting and preparing each student.

Demographics

Grade 6-8; Enrollment 752; Black 2.1%; Asian 23.0%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0.4%; Hispanic 7.0%; Pacific Islander 0.3%; Multiracial 4.3%; White 62.9%; Attendance rate 95.9%.

Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 70.7%. Four teachers are Nationally Board Certified.

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.

Pacific Cascade 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/middle/; select Pacific Cascade; 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.

Academic highlights

- Pacific Cascade opened for grades 6-8 in the fall of 2010. Our academic programs closely match the offerings at the other middle schools.
- Our elective offerings center in three areas; fine arts (music, graphic arts and drama), technology (video, digital photography, etc) and fitness. These electives utilize to the fullest our fine facility. Spanish is also offered for 8th grade students, and completes one year of high school world language requirement.
- Our Lynx Life program (multi-aged advisory) runs weekly for 45 minutes and promotes the personal, social and academic development of our students.
- In 2011 we launched a new technology class, required for all 7th grade students. Students learn how to operate Google Docs, use Google Earth, Xtra-Normal and complex graphing. This class will meet the District's high school technology requirement.
- All students have one trimester of health. Counselors teach weekly lessons in the health classes on topics such as stress management, friendship skills, and suicide prevention.

Issaquah School District—Pacific Cascade Middle School

Other highlights...

- Our year-long Leadership class offers students in 7th or 8th grade an opportunity to develop leadership skills, take a lead role in public speaking during assemblies and provide service to our school community.
- This year, Pacific Cascade 8th graders went to the Junior Achievement finance park and 7th grade students went to the Underground Seattle tour when they studied Washington State History. 6th grade students saw the King Tut exhibit at the Pacific Science Center in conjunction with their study of Ancient Civilizations.

Improving student achievement

Two courses offered at Pacific Cascade are of interest to students who struggle with learning. Math lab is offered at all grades, and is a year-long class that students take in addition to their regular math class. It provides systematic instruction on not only the new material, but also constant refreshers of what has been learned. Students in math lab often use both class periods to take quizzes and tests. Our guided studies program is open to all students. It is a class period to get and stay organized a chance to get help from a teacher on class or homework, and a quiet place to get a head start on homework. Some students who have many after school activities enjoy having guided studies as their elective just to get their school work done!

Pacific Cascade received a grant to open the library after school for drop-in student use. We also received Issaquah School Foundation grants to offer a comprehensive tutoring/homework completion class we call 7th period.

The District's mentoring program, VOICE, is well represented here at Pacific Cascade. We have many volunteers who come during the school day into study skills classes to assist and support students.

Our book study for 2012 is "Teach Like a Champion". Teachers will participate in a year-long study of improving and increasing techniques for classroom skill, increasing student engagement, strong and varied questioning techniques and asking of students the most they can give each day. In April of 2012, the BERG group collected data in each of our classrooms. According to our data, we increased in the area of "thinking skills" by 11% over our 2010 data. We will continue to focus on "thinking skills" this year. "Thinking Skills" is also the District area of focus for professional development.



Each year we send teachers from Pacific Cascade to a three day conference on Professional Learning Communities. Teachers continue to master their understanding of the standards for content and create common "power standards" (teacher jargon for the MOST important things for students to master). This year it is our goal to evaluate the data from implementing common assessments.

Special programs

Pacific Cascade offers a continuum of class offerings. In the elective area, students can become video "experts" and will do filming and editing for both the morning announcements as well as videos for the student body, such as the end of year slide show. Special education classes in math, reading and writing are offered throughout the day. PCMS also hosts the Districts' ISEP program, the program for students with significant behavior difficulties. Honors humanities are offered at each grade level, and students can accelerate in math.

Extra-curricular activities

Pacific Cascade offers Table Tennis, Math Club, Science Olympiad, Art Club, Robotics Club, Chess Club, National Junior Honor Society, Scrapbooking Club, Frisbee Golf, Board Game Club, Environment Club, Knitting Club, Builders Club, Geography Bee, Jazz Band, Newspaper Club, and a full complement of competitive and intramural athletics. Many parent volunteers help to supervise these clubs, and this is an area we hope to grow in the coming years.

What's new

Our school continues to grow by leaps and bounds. We are adding teachers and our incoming 6th grade class is the largest one we have ever had.

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Assessment

Two tests given to middle school students—The Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) and End-of-Course (EOC) exams—help indicate how well Issaquah students are learning.

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

	6	District/State	7	District/State	8	District/State
Reading	80.6	84.3/70.6	90.2	88.2/71.2	85.5	83.8/67.2
Writing	n/a	n/a	86.1	89.6/71.0	n/a	n/a
Math	87.4	83.6/61.4	82.8	82.5/59.2	78.6	77.1/55.4
Science	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	85.1	85.4/66.3

EOC

In spring 2011, the state replaced its broad 10th-grade math High School Proficiency Exam with two End of Course Assessments. Now, students take the End of Course 1 assessment at the end of their algebra course, no matter what their grade level; they take the End of Course 2 assessment at the end of their geometry course, no matter what their grade level. This means a middle schooler on a typical math track will take two state math assessments their eighth-grade year: the general MSP and the End of Course assessment 1.

EOC Math Year 1	EOC Math Year 2
School/District/State	School/District/State
92.0/89.9/71.0	100.0/95.5/79.1