



2011-12

# Annual School Performance Report

## Sunset Elementary School

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(425) 837-5600

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

Principal Wayne Hamasaki

*Welcome*



High expectations and strong support for student learning shape the culture that defines the character of Sunset Elementary. Our parents, teachers, support staff, district and community work together to provide students with excellence in academics in a caring, safe and respectful learning environment. At Sunset, our motto is "Caring to Learn and Learning to Care".

*Mission*

Sunset Elementary, in cooperation with the community, provides an enthusiastic and caring learning environment. Our high expectations for academic and responsible behavior empower children to become independent and life-long learners. We believe that appreciating diversity and learning to work together cooperatively are important skills for success in an increasingly interdependent world.

*Demographics*

Grades K-5; Enrollment 645; Black 1.9%; Asian 20.6%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0.6%; Hispanic 5.3%; Pacific Islander 0.8%; Multiracial 5.3%; White 65.6%; Attendance rate 95.9%.

*Teacher experience*

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 83.3%

*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.

Sunset did not meet 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 Sunset; 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.

# Issaquah School District—Sunset Elementary School

## Highlights...

- **Commitment to student achievement.** Academic success through high expectations is Sunset's primary focus and students have performed well on the Measurement of Student Progress. Teachers continually seek ways to improve their instructional skills in math, reading, writing, and science and technology integration.
- **Sensational Sockeyes.** Students were recognized for positive character traits through Sensational Sockeye slips, monthly assemblies and weekly drawing winners with photos in the school's newsletter.
- **Eager Readers.** Students actively participated in Sunset's Eager Reader Program reading over 2.79 million minutes! At the Eager Reader Awards Celebration, teachers performed a dance routine and Principal Hamasaki ate bugs and worms!
- **Green School.** Students and staff were active participants in the King County Green Schools program in recycling, waste reduction and energy conservation.
- **Humanitarian efforts.** Sunset families participated in a variety of community humanitarian efforts such as a Humane Society Food Drive, food and clothing drives and Caring Thru Sharing gifts for families in need.

## Improving student achievement

Sunset's Continuous Improvement Plan focused on improving reading skills. Teachers participated in professional development training, book studies and collaborated with school and district colleagues to assess student learning and improve instructional strategies. Sunset PTA provided funds for extra reading assistance to help support students, two author visits and for science and technology enhancement. The VOICE mentor program matched positive adult role models with students to assist with school success.

## Special programs

Sunset hosts an Early Childhood Special Education (preschool) program, the district's elementary Vision Program and the district's speech program for preschoolers. In addition Sunset has a Learning Resource Center for students with special needs including academic and behavior support, a Reading Assistance Program (RAP) for students needing additional help with reading, writing and a SAGE program for highly capable students in grades 3-5. The English Language Learners program helped students who have a first language other than English.

## Before/after school

Sunset offered Sockeye Club (on-site before and after school-age care) and hosted Club Connection (winter, spring, summer care for students from five elementary schools), Student Council, Safety Patrol, chorus, Global Reading Challenge, dance, puppetry, technology/media and tennis. Sunset PTA offered community-building events such as an Art Walk, Multi-Cultural Celebration, Bingo, Science Fair, Talent Show, Reflections, Sock Hop, Spooky Spaghetti Night, Skate Nights and many more events. Community groups offered Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Jr. Girl Scouts, drawing, chess, Spanish, drama, basketball, baseball, softball and soccer.

## Just so you know...

Sunset Elementary has outstanding support from Sunset PTA, parent and community volunteers. Sunset PTA achieved 100% membership for the tenth consecutive year and received Honor Unit and Standards of Excellence Awards from the Washington State PTA.



Students read over 2.79 million minutes in Sunset's Eager Reader Program!



Kindergartners honor veterans in song at the Veterans Day Program.

# Issaquah School District—Sunset 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
58/62	68/66	78/77
69/68	77/78	85/85

## 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
70.8	83.7/68.7	80.9	87.7/71.4	92.0	87.4/71.0
n/a	n/a	79.1	81.2/61.3	n/a	n/a
74.2	81.8/65.3	76.6	83.6/59.3	84.2	83.9/63.7
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	91.0	85.4/66.1