



2012-13

# Annual School Performance Report

## Challenger Elementary School

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

Principal Sara Jo Pietraszewski

### Welcome

Parents and community members are vital members of our team. Their support enables us to provide a wide variety of enrichment programs. Thanks for working with us to make every student's success our top priority.

### Vision

The Challenger community will create a positive, friendly, respectful learning environment where staff and students feel safe, are willing and encouraged to take risks, and individual learning styles are recognized and nurtured.

### Demographics

Grades K-5; Enrollment 503; Black 1.0%; Asian 31.8%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0.4%; Hispanic 8.3%; Pacific Islander 0.8%; Multiracial 5.5%; White 53.0%; Attendance rate 95.6%. Free and reduced lunch 5.0%.

### Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 71.0%

### 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.

Challenger 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 Challenger; 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

- Challenger has a very warm and friendly community school atmosphere. Each month we come together as a school community for a Comet Celebration—an assembly where we sing together, share upcoming school events, celebrate student accomplishments, and to teach and practice our monthly PRIDE Skills.
- We are proud of our continued strong partnership with our parents and the community. Middle and high school students assist our teachers and mentor Challenger students as part of their high school course work or community service. Parents are actively involved in the life of the school as they volunteer countless hours to support student learning.
- Challenger celebrates a strong tradition of before and after school enrichment programs. PTA sponsors after school technology, chess, Lego, art, pottery, French and Spanish classes. Our teachers also provide enrichment by leading a number of clubs: Student Council, Photography, Yoga, Climbing,

# Issaquah School District—Challenger Elementary School

## *more Highlights...*

- Running, Comet Choir, Drum Group, and Technology. Also, our student-led Waste Watchers provide food and paper waste recycling at lunch.
- Our teachers and students are enthusiastically engaged in the integration of technology into all aspects of learning. Classrooms are equipped with a high ratio of computers, document cameras, digital cameras and ActivBoards. In addition, this year some classrooms have added netbooks and/or iPads for student use.
  - Challenger is proud of its outstanding music program. All grade levels perform curriculum-related concerts that incorporate music, dance, instruments, solos, and speaking parts. Fifth graders also have the opportunity to join orchestra at our neighboring middle school.

## *Improving student achievement*

This year we began with a celebration of student growth in writing as well as other academic areas. Our Continuous Improvement Plan with a focus on writing is in its third year of development and implementation. Grade levels focused on and refined plans for all students to achieve grade level expectations. Students are engaged in daily writing instruction, practice, and celebration. Writing activities include journaling in reading, science, and for fun; poetry; and publishing and sharing of personal writing. In order to determine specific areas of need and to measure student progress, writing prompts are given three times a year and are jointly scored by grade level teacher teams. This data helps to determine next steps in focused classroom instruction as well as individual student goal setting. In addition to our focus on writing, Challenger teachers are excited about the district's new reading adoption and have created a balanced reading program in each classroom; assessing each student at his/her individual reading level; providing appropriate leveled books for students; and instilling the love of reading for everyone! Also, teachers and students enjoyed getting their hands on our new science curriculum—such fun learning. We are so proud of our adult, high school and middle school mentors who provide students with positive role models to assist with their success in school.

## *Special programs*

Challenger houses one of the district's Learning Resource Center II (LRC II) programs: a self-contained special education classroom for K-5 students with moderate to severe disabilities. Our LCR II students are included in general education grade level activities whenever appropriate and are embraced by their peers.

## *What's new*

Our remodel is complete! In September, students and their families walked into a beautiful new atrium as they visited our new office and library. The library is truly the 'hub' of the school housing not only books for student check out, but also our new Book Room filled with leveled books for teachers to check out for guided reading groups.

## *Just so you know...*

An annual Cultural Festival helps us celebrate the wonderful diversity in our school—many countries are represented during this event! A monthly school-wide PRIDE Program teaches and celebrates concepts such as responsibility, goal setting, honesty, perseverance, positive attitude, respect and more. Fifth graders participate in an environmental 3 day/2 night experience at Camp Orkila on Orcas Island.



*Second-graders collaborate during a hands-on science unit.*



*Fifth grade and kindergarten learning buddies create 3D shapes.*



*Creativity and fitness! Third graders build a hula hoop sculpture in PE.*

# Issaquah School District—Challenger 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.

In 2012 the norm group changed to a more current sample. Generally speaking, the new norm group was more representative of the nation as a whole and produced a “tougher” norm to which our Issaquah School District students are now compared. Therefore, last year we expected to see lower average scores at the school and district level than the year before, when there was a less rigorous norm. This year’s scores can be compared to last year’s and, moving forward, we will be able to notice trends in performance.

## Grade level Total Reading Total Math

1/District	2/District	5/District
65/62	65/64	75/78
67/66	79/75	84/85

## 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
90.4	90.7/73.0	78.3	87.1/72.4	83.3	87.6/72.6
n/a	n/a	78.3	80.0/62.1	n/a	n/a
86.7	83.5/65.2	88.4	83.9/62.5	80.0	83.1/62.6
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	82.4	86.5/66.5