2012-13

Annual School Performance Report

Cougar Ridge Elementary School
4630 167th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98006
(425) 837-7300
http://connect.isaquah.wednet.edu/elementary/cougar/default.aspx
Principal Jackie Patten

Welcome
School is a wonderful place for children to come into their own and be who they are. We have enormous appreciation for our families and the way we work as a team—home and school together—on behalf of our children. We know we are a part of a special community!

Mission
Climb every mountain • Meet every challenge • Work together to reach the summit • Take pride in the successes of one another • Share • Appreciate diversity in our world • Laugh

Demographics
Grades K-5; Enrollment 616; Black 2.0%; Asian 30.8%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0.2%; Hispanic 3.2%; Pacific Islander 0.3%; Multiracial 6.7%; White 56.8%; Attendance rate 95.9%. Free and reduced lunch 3.1%.

Teacher experience
Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 58.3%

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.

Cougar Ridge met Annual Measurable Objectives for the “All Students” group in reading. It did not meet Annual Measurable Objectives for the “All Students” group in math. For complete information about highly qualified teachers, Annual Measurable Objectives, assessment data, and state NAEP results, go to www.isaquah.wednet.edu/schools/elementary/; select Cougar Ridge; select state report cards.

District report
For budget details and more go to www.isaquah.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.isaquah.wednet.edu/district/polling.aspx for more information and survey results.

Highlights
- For sixteen consecutive years, the Cougar Ridge PTSA has been recognized by the State PTA for 100% membership.
- Each month we focus on a “Tool to Reach the Summit” (character trait) to encourage students to learn skills that will help them be successful in school and life.
- All students, K-5, participated in an Artist-in-Residence program. This year students had the opportunity to work with artists Shari Kaufman and Nicole Appell to create an original tile. The artists then mounted the tiles and they are displayed in our hallway. Our students were so creative and the piece of artwork with their tiles is amazing.
more Highlights...  

- Cougar Ridge students, families, and staff celebrated our diversity with our Heritage Festival. It was a great success. We came together as a community and got to know each other better. This along with our Walk-A-Thon, Science Fair and Art Fair were sponsored by our very supportive PTSA.

Improving student achievement

It is our goal that all students grow academically and experience success. We set high academic standards for students and continually work to improve instruction so students are successful. With that in mind we have set a Continuous Improvement Goal: By the year 2013, ninety-five percent (95%) of students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade will meet the reading standard on the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP). Working towards that goal, we looked at best practices in literacy and implemented instruction that supports these practices. Teachers set reading goals for their classrooms as well as individual students, monitored student progress and at the end of the year we celebrated the growth students made in reading.

Special programs

Cougar Ridge is one of four district elementary schools to host self-contained classrooms for students with special needs.

Before/after school

Tennis, Chess Club, Video-Editing Club, Scouts, Foreign Language, Drama, Student Council, Destination Imagination, Camp Warm Beach, Science Fair, Art Fair, Choir, Karate, Art Classes, Keyboarding, and more ...

What's new

Along with our continued focus on improving our students’ ability to read and comprehend, we will be studying effective instruction for writing and will begin the gradual implementation of the new writing curriculum. In addition, we will be reviewing the Common Core Standards and working to make sure our instruction supports these standards.

top left: Students experienced what it is like to be differently abled at our first “Celebrating Diverse Abilities Day.”

top right: Ms. Patton’s After School Tennis Program are preparing for a tournament to be held at Sunset Elementary School.

bottom right: Cougar Ridge students recognize and honor veterans.
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.

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.

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, 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.