



2013-14

Annual School Performance Report

Discovery Elementary School

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

Principal Tera Coyle

Welcome

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

Mission

Discovery is a partnership of students, staff and parents invested in the lifelong learning and rigorous academic achievement of all students.

Demographics

Grades K-5; Enrollment 616; Black 0.8%; Asian 43.8%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0%; Hispanic 5.7%; Pacific Islander 0.3%; Multiracial 5.7%; White 43.6%; Attendance rate 96.2%. Free and reduced lunch 1.9%.

Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 67.6%; Teachers with National Board Certification 6; Average Years Teaching Experience 9.3.

OSPI data

In March 2014, the U.S. Department of Education declined to renew the state of Washington's conditional Elementary and Secondary Education Act Flexibility Waiver for schools receiving Title I, Part A funds. This decision affects all schools in Washington State, which are now subject to the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Washington is the only state that has lost its waiver and must revert to NCLB standards and timelines of assessment. For schools and districts to be considered succeeding under NCLB, schools must meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards. For schools to meet AYP, 100 percent of all students, regardless of special needs or English language mastery, must meet proficiency standards. Discovery did not meet AYP this year. For complete information about the Issaquah School District's assessment data, highly qualified teachers, annual yearly progress, and state NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) results, please visit the [state's online district report card](#).

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

- A strong partnership between staff and parents helps students to achieve at a high academic standard. We average about 200 parent volunteers each month. In addition, we participate in a parent playdate program that encourages father-figures to volunteer at Discovery during recess times to support students in the less structured part of their day.
- Our students strong academic achievement was honored this year with state Achievement Awards in "Overall Excellence" as well as special recognition for our "Reading Growth."
- We are leaders in the field of technology. Every classroom is equipped with computers, a projector and document camera, and Promethean ActivBoard. Many classes are equipped with student response devices (ActiVotes) as well as student i-Pads or small student laptops.
- Many students participate in the annual science fair, family literacy night, and our wealth of PTSA events such as Family Fun Night, Talent Show, Spelling Bee, Matinee Movie Day, and Art Show to name a few.
- Global Reading competitors in 4th and 5th grade had some exciting competitions and our Green Team continues to promote recycling and composting throughout the school. Our Green Team

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more Highlights

students worked hard on becoming an Idle Free Zone this year. Many students participated in K-Kids where they helped various organizations inside and out of our community. For example, the K-Kids helped the Smile Power group deliver dental hygiene products to Bolivia and collect funds for the devastating OSO mudslide victims among many other great support tasks.

- Some of our students won awards as they represented Discovery in the state Reflections (art) Contest.
- This year our classes participated in learning activities within the Outdoor Educational Areas, including our beautifully renovated garden. Those areas are being maintained with the help of our Garden Club.
- We recognize and celebrate students who are Cooperative, Assertive, Respectful, Empathetic and Self-Controlled. This CARES program has been successful in encouraging students of all grade levels to be good citizens at school and in our community. This year we added to our CARES program with our Be KIND assembly which promoted anti-bullying and treating one another with kindness. This was a HUGE success where students worked hard to earn their “Be KIND” t-shirts, bracelets and/or pencils.
- We are proud of 100% membership in PTSA which supports student learning in countless ways!

Improving student achievement

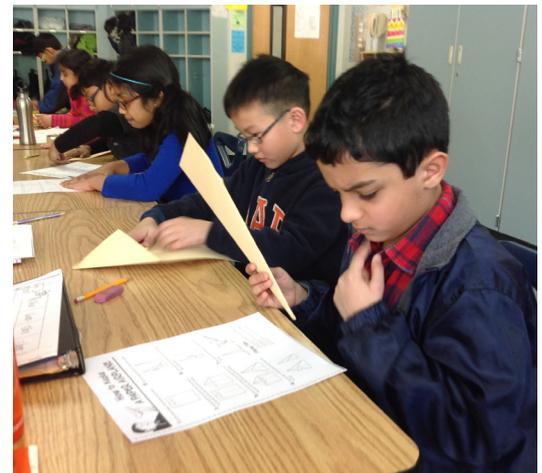
Discovery’s school improvement goal is to have 95% of our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students meet standard on the reading MSP in 2014. We are excited to work towards this building goal since it aligns with the district balanced literacy initiative and also works in tandem with a comprehensive book room that was funded by our PTSA and district office as well as our new district literacy curriculum funded by ISF (Issaquah School’s Foundation). Some of the research identified strategies that we are focusing on to reach this goal include: explicit instruction in comprehension, decoding, fluency, and thinking strategies. In addition, students will have time to practice reading at both their independent and instructional levels in high-interest texts. Teachers use a variety of assessments, both formal and informal, to inform instruction for whole group, small group, and one-on-one teaching. We developed core beliefs about reading together as a staff and our classrooms reflect these foundational values! Through learning walks, staff is also focusing on higher-level thinking skills and reflecting on how to increase student thinking through a variety of ways. Teachers are involved in book studies, building and district professional development, and are working with a building literacy coach on a regular basis. All staff worked hard this year to support our boy population as their test scores have historically not been as high as our girls. We are thankful for such a supportive PTSA that helped us purchase high interest books for students to use at home if they are below their grade level standard. All of these things are working together to improve what really matters: student learning.

Special programs

Discovery hosts a special needs pre-school; K-5th Resource Room; LAP (Learning Assistance Program), which we fondly refer to as Reading Club; SAGE, a 3rd-5th grade pull-out gifted program; Science to Go lessons with a science specialist, which includes lessons in our outdoor educational areas (wetlands, grade level gardens, butterfly gardens); art classes once per month by a professional art consultant; and art classes once per month by our PTSA sponsored docent program.

Before/after school

Our school offers a variety of extracurricular activities. Our community enrichment programs offer classes such as Spanish, Mandarin, drama, chess, and martial arts. We also have an active K-Kids program whose community service projects include feeding the hungry, providing clothes for refugee children, helping children in an orphanage in Bolivia, providing toys for children in emergency situations, the Humane Society, and helping families in need. Global Reading Challenge, Running Club, 4th and 5th Grade Math Tutorial, and Student Safety Patrol, are some of the additional activities offered at Discovery. We also have a school-age child care center called Eagle Club, which is an on-site before and after school day care program. In addition, our music teacher provides our 4th and 5th grade students with the opportunity to participate in choir.



Discovery students using informational texts to build paper airplanes.

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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.

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 |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 77/64 | 72/63 | 82/77 |
| 83/67 | 79/74 | 89/84 |

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 |
|---------|------|----------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|
| Reading | 92.9 | 88.3/72.0 | 92.1 | 87.9/70.0 | 94.1 | 88.3/72.4 |
| Writing | n/a | n/a | 84.0 | 83.2/62.1 | n/a | n/a |
| Math | 88.7 | 83.9/63.0 | 94.0 | 85.9/60.8 | 90.6 | 83.2/63.5 |
| Science | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 91.8 | 83.8/66.8 |