



2013-14

Annual School Performance Report

Grand Ridge Elementary School

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

Principal Christy Otley

Welcome

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

Mission

Our students will be of high character, and will be prepared for and eager to accept the academic, personal, and practical challenges of life in their school, community, and ever-changing global environments.

Demographics

Grades 1-5; Enrollment 715; Black 1.7%; Asian 32.8%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0%; Hispanic 5.7%; Pacific Islander 0.2%; Multiracial 7.4%; White 52.2%; Attendance rate 96.4%. Free and reduced lunch 6.9%.

Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 69.2%; Teachers with National Board Certification 4; Average Years Teaching Experience 9.9.

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. Grand Ridge 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

Grand Ridge which opened in 2006 is perched on a hill offering "grand" sweeping views of the Olympics and Northern Cascades. A state-of-the-art facility including a gymnasium, multi-purpose room, stage, music room, library, computer lab, kiln room, and an outdoor covered play area, Grand Ridge hosts five elementary grades (1-5) and a highly qualified, certificated faculty. Grand Ridge kindergarteners attend a Kindergarten Center at Challenger Elementary and return to Grand Ridge as first graders. In addition to a full range of academic subjects, all students participate weekly in library, music and physical education. Grand Ridge takes pride in being a culturally diverse school with a very active parent community.

What's new

Environmental Consciousness: Grand Ridge has continued its focus on environment consciousness and was recently approved to become a Level 3 Green school. Our Green Team continues to work on

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more ... What's new

monitoring water consumption and quality of recycling in our classrooms, as well as educate students and teachers on ways they can save paper and energy. Our school also runs a composting program and learning garden for students. Grand Ridge no longer requires bus transportation and is now a walking school, which further reduces our impact on the environment.

Music Grant: The music program at Grand Ridge was granted \$10,000 from the Issaquah Schools Foundation to purchase marimbas. The marimbas will be used by all classes to learn about music from around the world as well as by an extracurricular marimba ensemble. The PTSA also supported the music program with an additional \$12,000 to fund the marimba program and a musician in residence.

Principal's Award: Grand Ridge's principal, Christy Otley, was awarded "East King County Distinguished Principal of the Year" by the Association of Washington School Principals.

Literacy: Our school continues to focus on literacy with the adoption of a new writing curriculum and the implementation of a writer's workshop model in all classrooms. Teachers attended a residency presented by writing experts, Matt Glover and Stephanie Parsons. Throughout the year students have applied new learning in their narrative and expository writing.

Improving student achievement

Our Continuous Improvement Plan focuses on improving literacy scores as measured by the MSP and Stanford achievement tests. Staff participate in a wide variety of professional development in literacy and Common Core State Standards, and our Literacy Support Teacher provides professional development both in and out of the classroom, modeling strategies and best practices. Grade level teams meet and collaborate closely on Wednesday afternoons. On some Wednesdays, grade levels participate in district professional development related to literacy and the new science curriculum. The Grand Ridge STAR team leads teachers on learning walks in classrooms. Teachers look closely for evidence of thinking skills and reflect upon their own practice and how to make thinking skills even more prevalent. Teachers are trained in GLAD strategies that are integrated in all curriculum areas and they work together on a regular basis to analyze and assess student work. This collaboration leads to consistent scoring throughout each grade level. In-depth discussions of student work samples help to improve instructional strategies and increase student learning.

Grand Ridge concentrates on meeting the needs of every student. The school has a Learning Resource Center (LRC) for students with special needs including academic and behavior support, a Reading Club for students needing additional help with reading and writing, and Special Approach to Gifted Education (SAGE) is an educational enrichment program for students in grades 3-5.

Enrichment activities

Grand Ridge offers a wide variety of before or after school extracurricular activities for students- choir, safety patrol, student council, global reading challenge, knitting club, xylophone club, Lego robotics club, running club, dodge ball and tuition-based before and after school childcare for students at Grizzly Club.

The Grand Ridge PTSA sponsors many fun and enriching activities throughout the year, such as Book Swap, classroom art docents, after-school movies, national PTSA Reflections art contest, learning garden, "The Art of Discovery" traveling exhibit of Pacific Northwest Art, science fair, and a spring social event. In response to parent and student requests for more after school and STEM related opportunities, the PTSA started four new after school programs run entirely by volunteers: Imagination Circle, two math clubs, and Fit Zone. The PTSA helps organize a vital volunteer and advocacy base for the school, as well as leads fundraising efforts to enhance curriculum with hands-on learning opportunities and provide for teacher grants. The PTSA's 2nd auction was a huge success, raising over \$74,000 specifically to support technology, literacy, art, science and other PTSA programs.



Grand Ridge students celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday.

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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
69/64	66/63	77/77
70/67	77/74	82/84

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
92.1	88.3/72.0	91.2	87.9/70.0	88.4	88.3/72.4
n/a	n/a	88.3	83.2/62.1	n/a	n/a
91.3	83.9/63.0	91.9	85.2/60.8	84.2	83.2/63.5
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	88.4	83.8/66.8