



2013-14

Annual School Performance Report

Issaquah Middle School

400 1st Avenue SE, Issaquah, WA 98027

(425) 837-6800

<http://connect.issaquah.wednet.edu/middle/ims/default.aspx>

Principal Corrine DeRosa

Welcome

Students, staff, parents and the community work together every day to enrich our school, making it a premier middle level learning experience. Thank you for making a difference!

Mission

Issaquah Middle School is an interdependent community that creates an environment empowering all students to be responsible, respectful, thinking citizens.

Demographics

Grades 6-8; Enrollment 777; Black 2.2%; Asian 19.4%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0.6%; Hispanic 9.3%; Pacific Islander 0.5%; Multiracial 4.2%; White 63.7%; Attendance rate 95.9%. Free and reduced lunch 13.9%.

Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 72.5%; Teachers with National Board Certification 7; Average Years Teaching Experience 14.4.

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. Issaquah Middle 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

- **Language Arts and Social Studies:** The IMS Language Arts program includes reading with an exploration of fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry. Students also work on vocabulary development and grammar. Students write personal narrative/memoirs, explanatory essays, argumentative essays, poetry and short stories, anecdotal essays, and literary analysis papers. Advanced Language Arts is offered. Social Studies classes during middle school study Ancient Civilizations, World History, Washington State History, U.S. History and Civics. Many of the units are hands-on simulations and all 8th graders learn about personal finances with a trip to the Junior Achievement Finance Park funded by the Issaquah Schools Foundation.
- **Math:** Students choose their Math pacing for middle school allowing for some students to complete Algebra 1 or Geometry by the end of 8th grade.
- **Science:** Our program includes Life Science, Earth and Space, and Physical Science. Lab-based science curriculum is taught in all grades. Students choose their Science path before entering middle school.

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more Highlights...

Choosing Path II will mean completing Biology by the end of 8th grade. Biology will be offered starting in the 2014-15 school year.

- **Fine Arts:** We offer a strong Fine Arts program which includes visual arts, orchestra, band, and chorus with optional after school clubs in each of these areas. An energetic group of theater students present two productions each year with the help of teacher advisors, professional technicians and choreographers with extensive support from parents.
- **Electives:** French, Spanish, Multi Media, Backyard Forests, Leadership, TV Production, Video Media, Photography, Yearbook and Art are some of the electives offered at IMS.
- **Technology:** IMS has four complete computer labs and two mobile notebook labs. All classrooms are outfitted with document cameras, LCD projectors and interactive boards used to maximize student learning. Each morning, ASB students produce and direct televised daily announcements using ongoing technological advancements.
- **Student Government:** ASB sponsors a variety of school activities and clubs throughout the year including Where Everybody Belongs (WEB). In its ninth year at IMS, WEB is a student-led program offering mentorship and connection activities for 6th graders and new students in order to support a smooth transition to middle school.
- **PAWS:** Sustained Strategic Reading, ASB activities as well as an advisory program that promotes the personal, social and academic development of our students is offered four times a week in this 25 minute "pause" in our students' day.

Improving student achievement

Our Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) focused on reading across the curriculum at all three grade levels. IMS uses Collaborative Strategic Reading strategies to aid in decoding and comprehending context-area text to improve reading across all grade levels and subjects areas. During school, math and reading support classes are offered at all grades levels and after school math and science help with content-area teachers is sponsored by the Issaquah Schools Foundation (ISF). After School Homework Club is available three days a week. In addition, ISF generously supports "Panther Club," a specialized after school tutoring program designed to support academically at-risk students. VOICE mentor program places community member volunteer mentors with students on a weekly basis also supported by ISF.

Special programs

- IMS offers a full range of special services, including a highly successful inclusion approach for LRC I students in math and language arts. This program is supported by math, reading and writing labs. We also offer a self-contained LRC II program for students with more severe learning disabilities. ELL is offered for our English language learners.
- Our Counseling Center provided student focus groups including grief, friendship,

Extra-curricular activities

IMS offers four seasons of boys' and girls' athletics, including softball, cross country, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, soccer and track. We have a vast selection of activities for students to get involved in outside the classroom. Some of the clubs offered this year were Craft Club, Games Club, Generation Impact, Geography Club, Green Team, La Chispa, Math Club, National Junior Honor Society, and Robotics Club.

Parent and community involvement

Our supportive PTSA has provided numerous hours of volunteer service in supporting programs like WalkAbout, Most Valuable Panther sundaes, chaperones for ASB socials and the 8th grade Celebration Cruise. They are also ready, willing and able to assist financially with teachers' classroom grants, providing Angel Program gift cards, supporting special academic opportunities like the Pacific Science Center's "Science on Wheels" program for Earth Science students and a guest speaker/author for 7th grade Language Arts students.



Issaquah Middle School students participate in a hands on science assembly.

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Assessment

Two tests given to middle school students—The Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) and End-of-Course (EOC) exams—help indicate how well Issaquah students are learning.

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

6	District/State	7	District/State	8	District/State
88.0	86.4/72.7	*	85.0/67.7	*	85.3/71.6
n/a	n/a	*	86.9/71.1	n/a	n/a
83.8	84.9/63.6	*	84.2/57.8	*	80.9/55.9
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	87.4/67.2

EOC

In spring 2011, the state replaced its broad 10th-grade math High School Proficiency Exam with two End of Course Assessments. Now, students take the End of Course 1 assessment at the end of their algebra course, no matter what their grade level; they take the End of Course 2 assessment at the end of their geometry course, no matter what their grade level. This means a middle schooler on a typical math track will take two state math assessments their eighth-grade year: the general MSP and the End of Course assessment 1.

EOC Math Year 1	EOC Math Year 2
School/District/State	School/District/State
91.6/83.9/58.4	n/a /60.0/53.4