



2013-14

Annual School Performance Report

Pacific Cascade Middle School

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

Principal Dana Bailey

Welcome

Involved parents and community members enrich our school and make it a premier middle level learning institution. Thanks for making a difference!

Mission

Connecting and preparing each student.

Demographics

Grade 6-8; Enrollment 881; Black 2.3%; Asian 24.0%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0.2%; Hispanic 6.0%; Pacific Islander 0.4%; Multiracial 4.3%; White 62.8%; Attendance rate 96.0%. Free and reduced lunch 10.7%.

Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 66.7%; Teachers with National Board Certification 10; Average Years Teaching Experience 11.1.

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. Pacific Cascade 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.

Academic highlights

- Pacific Cascade opened for grades 6-8 in the fall of 2010. Our academic programs closely match the offerings at the other middle schools.
- Our elective offerings center in three areas; fine arts (music, graphic arts and drama), technology (video, digital photography, etc) and fitness. These electives utilize to the fullest our fine facility. Additions to the trimester elective offerings include; Robotics, super readers and writing lab. Year-long Spanish is offered for 8th grade students, and completes one year of high school world language requirement.
- Our Lynx Life program (multi-aged advisory) daily except Wednesdays for 20 minutes and promotes the personal, social and academic development of our students.
- In 2011 we launched a new technology class, required for all 7th grade students. Students learn how to operate Google Docs, use Google Earth, Xtra-Normal and complex graphing. This class will meet the District's high school technology requirement.
- All students have one trimester of health. Counselors teach weekly lessons in the health classes on topics such as stress management, friendship skills, and suicide prevention.

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Other highlights...

- Our year-long Leadership class offers students in 7th or 8th grade an opportunity to develop leadership skills, take a lead role in public speaking during assemblies and provide service to our school community. Yearbook is another year-long class available to 7th and 8th grade students, and students in this class create a polished and professional yearbook each year.
- This year, Pacific Cascade 8th graders went to the Junior Achievement finance park and 7th grade students went to the Museum of Flight. Next year, 6th grade students will see the special exhibit at the Pacific Science Center.

Improving student achievement

Two courses offered at Pacific Cascade are of interest to students who struggle with learning. Math lab is offered at all grades, and is a year-long class that students take in addition to their regular math class. It provides systematic instruction on not only the new material, but also constant refreshers of what has been learned. Students in math lab often use both class periods to take quizzes and tests. Our guided studies program is open to all students. It is a class period to get and stay organized a chance to get help from a teacher on class or homework, and a quiet place to get a head start on homework. Some students who have many after school activities enjoy having guided studies as their elective just to get their school work done!

All middle schools received a grant to open the library after school for drop-in student use. We also received Issaquah School Foundation grants to offer a comprehensive tutoring/homework completion class we call 7th period.

The District's mentoring program, VOICE, is well-represented here at Pacific Cascade. We have many volunteers who come during the school day into study skills classes to assist and support students.

Each year we send teachers from Pacific Cascade to a three day conference on Professional Learning Communities. Teachers continue to master their understanding of the standards for content and create common "power standards" (teacher jargon for the MOST important things for students to master).



Crazy Hair Day during Spirit Week.

Special programs

Pacific Cascade offers a continuum of class offerings. In the elective area, students can become video "experts" and will do filming and editing for both the morning announcements as well as videos for the student body, such as the end of year slide show. Special education classes in math, reading and writing are offered throughout the day. PCMS also hosts the Districts' ISEP program, the program for students with significant behavior difficulties. Advance Language Arts classes are offered at each grade level, and students can accelerate in math and science.



Students participating in Ping Pong Club.

Extra-curricular activities

Pacific Cascade offers Table Tennis, Math Club, Science Olympiad, Art Club, Robotics Club, Chess Club, National Junior Honor Society, Scrapbooking Club, Frisbee Golf, Board Game Club, Environment Club, Builders Club, Geography Bee, Jazz Band, Newspaper Club, and a full complement of competitive and intramural athletics. Many parent volunteers help to supervise these clubs, and this is an area we hope to grow in the coming years.

What's new

Our school continues to grow by leaps and bounds. This year we will get a new, 8 lane, rubberized track and turf field. This project is set to be completed in the fall, and will greatly improve our PE and sports facility.

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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 percent-age meeting or exceeding standard.

Grade level

Reading

Writing

Math

Science

6	District/State	7	District/State	8	District/State
85.3	86.4/72.7	86.2	85.0/67.7	79.9	85.3/71.6
n/a	n/a	89.0	86.9/71.1	n/a	n/a
83.4	84.9/63.6	85.8	84.2/57.8	77.3	80.9/55.9
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.5	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
90.9/83.9/58.4	n/a /60.0/53.4