



2013-14

## Annual School Performance Report

### Sunset Elementary School

4229 W. Lk. Sammamish Pkwy. SE, Bellevue, WA 98008

(425) 837-5600

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

Principal Wayne Hamasaki

#### Welcome

High expectations and strong support for student learning shape the culture that defines the character of Sunset Elementary. Our parents, teachers, support staff, district and community work together to provide students with excellence in academics as students learn to be respectful, responsible, safe and caring.

#### Mission

Sunset Elementary, in cooperation with the community, provides an enthusiastic and caring learning environment. Our high expectations for academic and responsible behavior empower children to become independent and life-long learners. We believe that appreciating diversity and learning to work together cooperatively are important skills for success in an increasingly interdependent world.

#### Demographics

Grades K-5; Enrollment 671; Black 2.2%; Asian 19.5%; American Indian/Alaska Native 0.5%; Hispanic 6.1%; Pacific Islander 0.6%; Multiracial 5.8%; White 65.3%; Attendance rate 95.4%. Free and reduced lunch 8.8%.

#### Teacher experience

Teachers with Master's/Ph.D. 89.2%; Teachers with National Board Certification 3; Average Years Teaching Experience 13.5.

#### 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. <<name of school>> 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/](http://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](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/polling.aspx) for more information and survey results.

# Issaquah School District—Sunset Elementary School

## Highlights...

- **Caring to Learn and Learning to Care.** Our school motto exemplifies our friendly, welcoming and caring environment. Our family-like environment has been an important part of Sunset's 55 year history.
- **Commitment to student achievement.** Academic success through high expectations is Sunset's primary focus and students have performed well on the Measurement of Student Progress. Teachers continually seek ways to improve their instructional skills in math, reading, writing, and science and technology integration.
- **Green School Award.** Sunset received a 2014 King County Green Schools Level 3 Award for promoting recycling, composting and water conservation, coordinated through the Sunset Student Council/Green Team.
- **Sensational Sockeyes.** Over 13,000 Sensational Sockeye slips were awarded to students for displaying positive character traits. Weekly drawing winners were recognized with photos in the school's weekly parent newsletter.
- **Sunset PTA** offered community-building events such as an Art Walk, Bingo, Orange Ruler Fun Run, Science Fair, Talent Show, Reflections, Sock Hop, Spooky Spaghetti Night and many more events.
- **Eager Readers.** Students recorded over 2.6 million minutes this year and as a result, Principal Hamasaki bleached his hair blonde.
- **Humanitarian efforts.** Sunset families participated in a variety of community humanitarian efforts such as food and clothing drives and Caring Thru Sharing gifts for families in need.

## Improving student achievement

Sunset's Continuous Improvement Plan focused on improving reading skills. Teachers participated in professional development training, book studies and collaborated with school and district colleagues to assess student learning and improving instructional strategies. Sunset PTA provided funds for extra reading assistance to help support students, two author visits and for science and technology enhancement. The VOICE mentor program matched positive adult role models with students to assist with school success.

## Special programs

Sunset hosts a special education Early Childhood Education (preschool) program, the district's Vision Program and the district's speech program for preschoolers. In addition the school has a Learning Resource Center for students with special needs including academic and behavior support, a Reading Assistance Program (RAP) for students needing additional help with reading and writing and a SAGE program for highly capable students in grades 3-5. The English Language Learners program helped students who have a first language other than English.

## Before/after school

Sockeye Club provides before and after school care and Club Connection provides winter, spring, summer care for students from five elementary schools. Sunset students participated in Student Council, Safety Patrol, Sunset Singers, Global Reading Challenge, puppetry and tennis. Community groups offered Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Jr. Girl Scouts, drawing, chess, Spanish, drama, basketball, baseball, softball and soccer.



Thousands of art work were on display at the Sunset PTA Art Walk.



5th graders wear colonial styled outfits for their U.S. history lesson.

# Issaquah School District—Sunset Elementary School

*Assessment*

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.

*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
62/64	62/63	75/77
75/67	76/74	77/84

*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
94.0	88.3/72.0	84.9	87.9/70.0	89.4	88.3/72.4
n/a	n/a	84.7	83.2/62.1	n/a	n/a
83.6	83.9/63	81.5	85.9/60.8	81.0	83.2/63.5
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	83.1	83.8/66.8