

Every Student *Future Ready*

Lake Washington School District
2008-2009 Annual Report



2008-2009 Highlights

The 2008-09 school year began with a new rallying cry. Dr. Chip Kimball, Superintendent, announced a new vision statement for the district at staff meetings in August 2008:



Chip Kimball
Superintendent

Every Student Future Ready

- Prepared for College
- Prepared for the Global Workplace
- Prepared for Personal Success

While the main part of the statement is simple and easy to remember, the full statement makes clear what students will need to be ready for their future.

College preparation ensures that students leave high school with options. They are ready for postsecondary education, whether it is a four-year college, a two-year college or technical program or an apprenticeship. They can take on rigorous academic challenges that require them to think and solve problems. Most jobs that pay more than minimum wage require additional education after high school. Students must graduate prepared to take on that additional education.

Workplace preparation is important for students to be competitive in an increasingly competitive job market. More and more jobs face competition from around the world. Our students must have the technical skills, perseverance, teamwork and problem-solving abilities to help them stand out.



Computer skills are critical in preparing students for college and for work.

Beyond job success, our community needs individuals who are good citizens and respect others. For real success, developing traits like resilience, maintaining balance and taking personal responsibility is critical.

This vision statement is being brought to life through Vision 2020. Vision 2020 is a project that is carrying out a strategic plan to ensure that every member of the class of 2020, in first grade in 2008-09, is prepared for college, the global workplace and personal success when they graduate.

In 2008-09, staff completed a review and revision of the district's Student Profile, as guided by the Board of Directors. This effort was the first major revision for the profile since it was adopted in 1993. The profile summarizes the skills, knowledge and attributes that students need to be future ready after completing an education in Lake Washington School District. The profile includes content area knowledge, such as math and science, with academic thinking skills and strategies, communication and collaboration skills, citizenship skills and important personal attributes.

This revised document is the foundation of the work done in our classrooms. It guides decision-making and curriculum decisions. The district's Board of Directors revised its End Results, the measures it uses to hold the superintendent accountable, to reflect the new profile. It spelled out the data it will use to determine if the district is on track to meet the lofty goals of the new vision statement, the district's mission statement, and the expectations of the student profile.

This important work gives Lake Washington School District a strong foundation to make the promise of its new vision statement become reality.

Lake Washington School District Board of Directors

**Date first elected to date current term ends*



Jackie Pendergrass
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11/1995-11/2011*



Ravi Shahani
District 5
11/2003-11/2011*



Nancy Bernard
District 3
11/1997-11/2013*



Chris Carlson
District 2
11/2007-11/2011*



Doug Eglington
District 4
11/1989-11/2013*

Awards & Achievements Darin Detwiler, a science teacher at BEST High School, was honored with the 2009 Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence. He received a \$10,000 check from Amgen. Of that, \$5,000 will go towards the expansion or enhancement of the school's science program, science resources or professional development for the school's science teachers. Darin was one of 34 recipients throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada, and one of only four in Washington state.

District at a Glance



Over 9,000 approved volunteers lend a hand in our schools.

Students

Male	51.8%
Female	48.2%
American Indian	0.6%
Asian	15.6%
Black	2.4%
Hispanic	7.0%
Pacific Islander	0.3%
White	70.4%

Staff

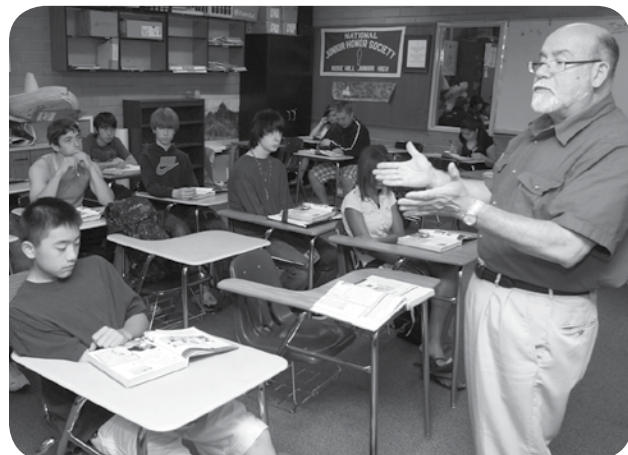
Number of classroom teachers	1,494
Average years of teaching experience	12.7
Teachers with at least a Masters Degree	60.4%

Schools

Number of schools	50
Enrollment	23,937
Free or reduced price meals	12.2%
Special Education	11.0%
Transitional bilingual	4.8%
Unexcused Absence	0.1%
Annual Drop-out Rate (07-08)	1.7%
On-Time Graduation Rate (08-09)	94.4%
Extended Graduation Rate (07-08)	96.4%

By the Numbers

- 23,937 students received 10,000 teacher hours of instruction per day from 1,494 classroom teachers
- 29 teachers achieved National Board Certification in 2008
- 100 teachers in the district now have National Board Certification – the highest professional certification a teacher can obtain
- #24 –ranking of International Community School in U.S. News & World Report's top 100 high schools in the U.S.
- 1,427 responses to the district's request for public input on the 2009-10 budget
- 42 community volunteers provided 785 hours of mentoring and/or tutoring to district students in 14 schools through the LINKS (Looking Into the Needs of Kids and Schools) program
- 702,156 kilowatt-hours of electricity saved in 2008-09, despite the addition of a new elementary school
- 28 gallons of water - the reduction in per student monthly water use from 2004-05 to 2008-09
- 71% of graduates enroll in college
- 9,700 students ride Metro and school buses each day, over 1.5 million miles per year



Close to 1,500 teachers work with almost 24,000 students each day.

Awards & Achievements Four Lake Washington schools were among the 98 honorees named Schools of Distinction by then Superintendent of Public Instruction Terry Bergeson in October 2008. **Alcott and Mann Elementary Schools** won the honor for the second year in a row while **Audubon and Thoreau Elementary Schools** made the list for the first time. This award recognizes and celebrates schools that demonstrate outstanding improvement in reading and mathematics.

Student Learning

Ensuring that all students are future ready calls for providing the best possible staff, resources and instruction available. Lake Washington School District continues to update curriculum and learning technology. The district provides professional development opportunities for staff to improve their skills and instruction.

Teachers Achieve National Board Certification

No one should ever stop learning. That is why Lake Washington School District provides professional development opportunities for staff to keep their skills and knowledge current. It starts with the district's award-winning New Teacher Support Program, which ensures that teachers new to the classroom get coaching and opportunities to learn throughout their first two years in the classroom.

At the other end of the professional spectrum is National Board Certification, the highest professional certification a teacher can obtain. Teachers earn this credential through a rigorous assessment that generally takes a year or more to complete. It requires these teachers to demonstrate how their work improves student achievement and they are tested on their knowledge of the subjects they teach. Last school year, 29 teachers achieved National Board Certification. There are now 100 National Board Certified teachers working full-time in the district's schools.

Technology Helps Students Learn

Technology, when paired effectively with quality instruction can make a significant impact on student learning. Lake Washington School District strives to have great educational technology available to both teachers and students. Technology in the classroom makes instruction and learning interactive and fun for students. Technology experiences also provide students with skills and knowledge required for work in the 21st century.

Each classroom is now outfitted as an "ActivClassroom" with an electronic interactive whiteboard (ActivBoard), projector, document camera, networked computer and sound amplification system. Research has proven that effective ActivClassroom use can help students learn better. This effect is due in large part to the ways that the tools meet the individual learning styles of the students. Students who are visual learners can see the lesson being taught on the ActivBoard. Students who are audio learners are better able to

hear teacher instructions through sound amplification. And students who are kinesthetic learners can actively participate in lessons using the "ActiVote" system that allows students to answer questions using a tool that looks like a remote control – allowing them to directly interact with the lesson.

To this end, in 2008-09, the Instructional Technology team provided professional development programs aimed at helping teachers learn how to use the ActivClassroom technology to improve their instruction. The goal for this year was that every teacher in the district would be able to demonstrate the use of ActivStudio with ActiVotes and multimedia.

Updated Curriculum: Elementary Social Studies and World Languages

Each curriculum area is on a timeline to be reviewed every eight to 10 years. During the 2008-2009 school year, new curriculum was adopted for secondary world languages (Japanese and French) and elementary social studies.

Curriculum adoption committees for both areas developed a set of Power Standards that detailed what a student should know and be able to do in these curriculum areas. The committees then used these Power Standards to review the resources available and determine which curricula they would recommend for use by the district. After parent comment and Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) review, the school board approved new textbooks for secondary Japanese and French and for elementary social studies.



Students in Lynn Armstrong's all-day kindergarten class at Rosa Parks Elementary receive hands-on lessons with the interactive white board.

Awards & Achievements *Heather McAllister*, an eighth grade student from Kamiakin Junior High, was recognized by the Washington State PTA at their Reflections Award Program for her colorful drawing titled "Wow Circus," which Heather said came from a passion she found after seeing a Cirque du Soleil show last year. For Heather's artwork to be shown at the state level, she had to win three different honors: one at the school level, one at the district level and then finally at the state level.

Academic Performance

WASL	Reading			Math			Writing			Science		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
3rd Grade	83	86	86	83	84	82	*	*	*	*	*	*
4th Grade	88	85	87	80	70	74	82	82	80	*	*	*
5th Grade	83	89	89	78	81	81	*	*	*	60	72	69
6th Grade	81	82	86	72	70	76	*	*	*	*	*	*
7th Grade	85	78	75	76	72	74	86	87	82	*	*	*
8th Grade	80	78	83	71	76	73	*	*	*	70	73	76
10th Grade	92	90	90	75	72	70	93	93	94	61	62	60

*Subject not tested

WASL district wide

Lake Washington School District (LWSD) students perform well on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). The district continues to improve in writing and science, improving in each grade tested. Math scores rose in some grades and fell in others, while reading scores followed a similar pattern.

Lake Washington is a star among medium to large school districts in the state, those with 10,000 students or more. **The district leads all schools with 10,000 or more students with the top average score in reading for grades three through six and the top writing score in fourth grade, the only elementary grade tested in that subject.** District students do almost as well in math and science, scoring second or third highest in each grade.

At the junior high level, district students came in second for the average reading score, and third for math and writing. At eighth grade, LWSD students are again best in the state among medium/large districts in reading, and score second in math and science. District scores at tenth grade range from second in math to fourth in writing, finishing third in both reading and science.

AP tests on the rise

The district upward trend toward more students taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes and tests continued last year. Over 3,000 students took AP classes in 2008-09, an increase of 761 from the year before. These students took over 2,400 exams, an increase of 346 over the previous year. Despite this increase, the passing rate remained high at 78 percent.

Advanced Placement	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Enrollment	2,358	2,396	3,157
Exams Taken	1,664	2,060	2,406
Passed	80%	80%	78%

District SAT/ACT scores rise; State and National scores fall

District students are bucking the state and national trends for SAT/ACT, as district scores are rising while those statewide and nationally were down or flat last year. SAT scores rose on average by four points each in math and critical reading while writing scores jumped six points. ACT scores also showed increases in every category.

The ACT test also provides a college readiness benchmark that showed increasing numbers of district students are ready for college level work. Last year, more district students who took the ACT scored at or above the college readiness benchmark level in math, reading and science, while the percentage remained the same in English.

SAT	2007		2008		2009	
	District	State	District	State	District	State
Reading	552	526	555	526	559	524
Math	563	531	570	533	574	533
Writing	542	510	545	509	551	507
ACT	2007		2008		2009	
	District	State	District	State	District	State
English	24.4	22.7	24.6	22.7	24.9	22.4
Math	24.6	23.0	24.8	23.2	25.3	22.9
Reading	24.9	23.7	25.3	23.7	25.4	23.5
Science	23.9	22.6	24.3	22.4	24.4	22.1
Composite	24.6	23.1	24.9	23.1	25.1	22.8

Percentage of students taking SAT and ACT			
	2007	2008	2009
SAT	72%	71%	63%
ACT	22.8%	23.6%	22.9%

Awards & Achievements Explorer Community School was awarded the Terry Husseman Sustainable School Award from the Department of Ecology. This award promotes sustainability and rewards school efforts to reduce waste and increase environmental curricula.

Financial Information

Lake Washington School District maintained strict financial discipline for 2008-09. That discipline includes maintaining at least a five percent fund balance, which helps ensure cash flow and helps maintain a good bond rating. For 2008-09, the district reduced spending mid-year when it became clear that significant budget cuts from the state level would be in store for 2009-10. As a result, the ending fund balance increased by about a million dollars from the year before.

The total number of students in the district increased from 23,722 in October of 2007 to 23,937 in October of 2008. That increase is important since state basic education funding calculations use student counts, among other funding sources, in determining the amount of money to provide the district. What the state has funded as basic education does not cover today's educational program. The district is restricted by state law in how much it can raise through the local levy, known as the Educational Programs & Operations Levy. A law was passed by the legislature in 2009 to re-define basic education but no funding was attached to the measure.

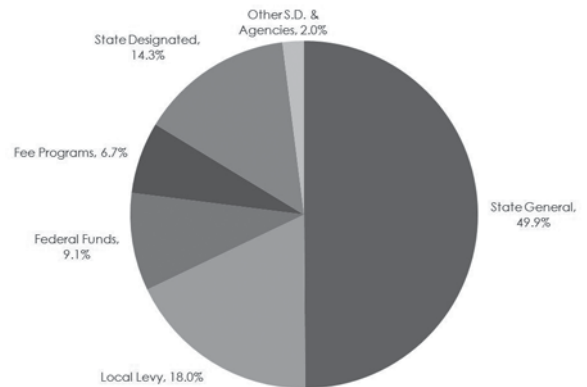
The district's philosophy has been to preserve spending in the classroom while maintaining a lean central administration. That philosophy is reflected in comparisons with the other large school districts in the state. Lake Washington School District spends a smaller percent of its general fund on central administration than all but one of the other top 15 largest districts in the state. On the other hand, the district is second highest in the top 15 districts in the percent of its budget spent on teaching.

The federal stimulus package shows up in the 2008-09 revenues, though no net increase in revenues occurred. Instead, the district received \$10 million in federal revenue that was offset by an equal cut in state general revenues. The result is the same total of revenues for the district but a decrease in state general percentage of the total to 49.9 percent from 55.4 percent in 2007-08 and an increase in the percent of revenue from federal funds to 9.1 percent from 5.7 percent.

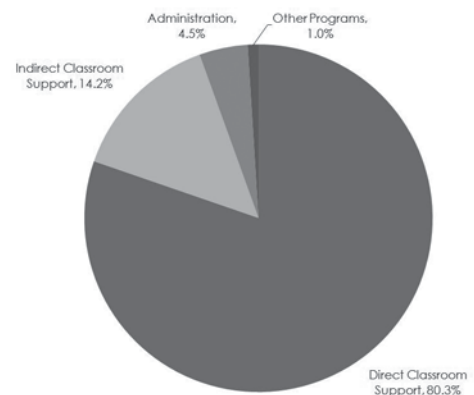


Most district expenditures go toward direct classroom support (80.3%).

Revenues 2008-2009



Expenditures 2008-2009



Awards & Achievements Kirkland Junior High School students Connor Bergren, Matt Mihara and Jake Nathlich were three of the five students from Washington state selected to represent our state in the American Choral Directors Association's Junior High/Middle School Honor Choir in Oklahoma City, Okla.

All Funds 2008-09	Beginning Fund Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Fund Balance
General	16,008,631	216,255,082	215,247,347	17,016,366
ASB	997,507	2,543,618	2,804,135	736,990
Debt	11,586,950	33,631,311	32,483,921	12,734,340
Capital	159,214,658	100,425,351	61,940,229	197,699,780
Transportation Vehicle Fund	2,597,879	1,313,741	2,731,082	1,180,538

A Foundation *for the Future*

The modernization bond passed in 2006 gave Lake Washington School District the funds to modernize the next group of schools in the district's four-phase modernization program and to build one new elementary school needed to reduce overcrowding on the Sammamish plateau. An examination of the district's grade-level configuration may impact future school construction.

New Elementary School

Rachel Carson Elementary School (pictured below) opened in August 2008, with a number of environmentally friendly features, as befits the school's namesake. Carson's writings encouraged children to explore the natural world and Carson Elementary offers many opportunities for children to discover nature while the school leaves a smaller footprint on the environment. Outdoor classrooms have been positioned adjacent to rain gardens so they can be studied as part of natural science class work. Carson has the state's first green roof on a school building. It is heated using a geothermal heat pump. The building is positioned to provide ample daylight while avoiding heat gain in the room. Natural ventilation is part of the building's design. All of these features combined make this school conducive to learning, environmentally friendly and at the same time help the district save money on energy.



Rachel Carson Elementary School in Sammamish is energy efficient and provides opportunities for children to learn about nature.

New Schools Taking Shape

Frost Elementary students spent the 2008-09 school year watching their new school building take shape. Ground breaking for the Frost project was in June 2008. The new building and its grounds contain references to Frost's poems. For example, the new building is tied to the poet's life and work through items such as the birch trees that will be part of the landscaping, in honor of his poem, "Birches." The new building was built on the same site as the old Frost Elementary, behind the old building.

Construction began on the new Lake Washington High School in spring 2009. The new building will feature a design that supports an educational program featuring four "houses". These groupings of students will ensure that a student takes most of their courses with the same group of teachers and other students for their high school career. This structure ensures that teachers get to know students well. Students, in turn, feel that someone in the school knows and cares about them. The LWSH staff has begun work on creating this system and learning more about how they can collaborate within these interdisciplinary groups of teachers to improve learning.

The Ninth Grade Dilemma

Lake Washington is one of the few districts in the state that has three-year rather than four-year high schools. Since colleges begin counting credits and GPA in ninth grade, and consider ninth-graders as being in high school, this fact was worrisome for Superintendent Chip Kimball, board and staff. As a result, Dr. Kimball looked at the research and talked to students, leading him to conclude that ninth grade students are best placed in our high schools.

"As much as our junior high staff remind them, it's hard for students in junior high to realize their work in ninth grade counts toward getting into college," said Dr. Kimball. "We want to increase the opportunities for every student to be college ready."

As a result, Dr. Kimball announced that a move toward a four-year high school configuration would be part of the district's planning.

Awards & Achievements **Mike Town**, an environmental science teacher at **Redmond High School (RHS)**, won the 2008-2009 Stanley O. McNaughton Golden Apple Award. This award recognizes educators whose commitment to excellence inspires student to attain success in academic or vocational areas. He was honored at an awards ceremony hosted by KCTS and PEMCO insurance in January.

Parent/Community *Connections*

Schools cannot educate students by themselves. It takes parent involvement and a supportive community to do the job well. As a government agency, community support is earned through transparency and accountability. This year, Lake Washington School District introduced new two ways of connecting to families in 2008-09 and used its community connections to make better decisions in a difficult budget environment.

New school web sites

The district's new Web site, launched in 2007-08, was designed to make it easy for parents, students and community members to find the information they need. School Web sites, however, were not consistent and varied tremendously in their usefulness. In fall 2008, new school Web sites launched that reflect the district site's organization and design as well as the school's own identity.

School webmasters worked with district staff to develop a structure for sites at the elementary and secondary level that put commonly sought information in the same spot on every site. A common site architecture also makes searching for information easier. An alert function allows the district to place an emergency message on all the school sites and the district site at the same time.

Live from Redmond

As a school district that covers 75 square miles, it's not easy for many parents and citizens to get to school board meetings. Board minutes can't reflect the detailed conversations nor do they adequately celebrate the board's recognition of students and staff who are honored at their meetings. Cable TV broadcasts of those meetings are not available in every part of

the district. So in January, the district added a streaming and archived video service to its Web site. Now, community members can watch board meetings live from their homes or view sections they are interested in at a later date.

Coming together as a community

By December 2008, it was clear that the state budget for 2009-10 would be much smaller than 2008-09 and the Lake Washington School District budget would not be spared. The magnitude of this cut - \$7.7 million - coming after years of belt-tightening, meant that it was unlikely the district could find items to cut that would not have a significant impact on students and staff.

Superintendent Chip Kimball and his staff developed an extensive public input process to help him make the tough decisions. The input process laid out the areas funded by the specific budget items being cut by the state. Staff members put together an extensive list of other potential items for reduction.

Dr. Kimball noted, "The question really was, what items could we possibly do without in order to keep those items most important to our community? I needed to know community priorities to do that." Between public meetings and online input, Dr. Kimball got his answers.

Significant cuts came in central administration, professional development and school building budgets, including staff stipends. Fees were increased for all-day kindergarten, high school athletics and transportation for pull-out Quest. Savings came through increased efficiencies or savings in custodial services, energy use and transportation routes. If additional cuts are required for 2010-11, essential core educational services may be affected.

Lake Washington School District
(425) 702-3200, www.lwsd.org
Safety Tip line: (866) LIVE-TIP/(866) 548-3847

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