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# Annual Report 2011-2012

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# District at a Glance

## By the Numbers:

- **24,912** students received instruction from 1,550 classroom teachers.
- **36** teachers achieved National Board Certification in 2011, the highest professional certification a teacher can obtain.
- **197** teachers have National Board Certification.
- **3,558,312** square feet of building space.
- **257** community volunteers provided 7,361 hours of mentoring and/or tutoring to district students in 23 schools through the LINKS (Looking Into the Needs of Kids and Schools) program.
- **93.1%** on-time graduation rate from the four comprehensive high schools.
- **7,850** students transported daily in 111 buses. 1,078 Metro bus passes issued. District buses logged total of 1,379,544 miles.
- **\$74,179** donated by district staff to United Way, to help our community.
- **25** students named National Merit Semifinalists.
- **27** schools actively compost their food waste.
- **16%** less electricity and 30% less natural gas per square foot were used in 2011-12 than used five years ago.
- Over **\$1,015,000** in donations to the district approved by the school board



Dr. Chip Kimball  
Superintendent,  
7/07-6/12



Siri Bliesner  
School Board, Dist. 5  
11/11-11/15\*



Doug Eglington  
School Board, Dist. 4  
2/89-11/13\*



Ravi Shahani  
School Board Vice  
President, Dist. 5  
11/03-11/11\*



Jackie Pendergrass  
School Board  
President, Dist. 1  
11/95-11/15\*



Nancy Bernard  
School Board Vice  
President, Dist. 3  
11/97-11/13\*



Christopher Carlson  
School Board, Dist. 2  
11/07-11/15\*

\*Date first appointed or elected to date current term ends.

# Year in Review

## **2011-12 Year in Review: A year of planning, learning and preparing**

A new grade configuration, a new superintendent, a new school, new school names – the 2012-13 school year is marked by many significant changes. To prepare for those changes, Lake Washington School District worked hard in 2011-12 to get ready. Still, there was a lot of learning going on in classrooms around the district, reflected in our test scores.

The start of the school year marked new beginnings at two schools at the heart of their communities – Lake Washington High School and Finn Hill Junior High/Environmental and Adventure School. A modern, light-filled and very functional building replaced the 1949 vintage Lake Washington High School. A large cafeteria and performing arts center are designed to enhance collaboration and bring people together. The building includes a number of sustainable features, which are designed to save money and maintenance.

Finn Hill Junior High and Environmental and Adventure School moved into a new building that is as green as their surroundings. The largest solar installation of any K-12 district in the state tops the roof while rain gardens are spotted all around the school. Courtyards between classroom wings are dedicated outdoor learning environments.

Soon after students and staff settled into the new year, Dr. Chip Kimball announced his resignation, effective at end of year, to become superintendent of the Singapore American School.

Lake Washington School District received a \$400,000 grant from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. This grant supported the development of curriculum for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) School that opened in fall 2012.



*Lake Washington High School*

## **Awards & Achievements**

# District at a Glance

## Students:

- Male – **51.6%**
- Female – **48.4%**
- Hispanic / Latino of any race – **9.3%**
- African American / Black – **1.8%**
- American Indian / Alaskan Native – **0.3%**
- Asian – **17.9%**
- Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander – **0.2%**
- White – **65.5%**
- Two or More Races – **5.1%**

## Staff:

- Number of classroom teachers: **1,550**
- Average years of teaching experience: **12.9**
- Teachers with at least a Masters Degree: **66%**

## Schools:

- Number of schools: **50**
- Enrollment: **24,912**
- Free or reduced price meals: **15.8%**
- Special Education: **12.1%**
- Transitional bilingual: **5.3%**
- Unexcused absence: **0.1%**
- Annual drop-out rate (11-12): **6.5%**
- On-time graduation rate (11-12): **92.2%**
- Extended graduation rate (2011): **93.2%**



# Year in Review

The district's board of directors immediately began work to determine their path in selecting a new superintendent. They surveyed the community for input on the issues facing the district as well as preferences for management. They decided first to evaluate potential internal candidates based on the criteria gathered through the survey as well as extensive interviews with staff and community members. Following that process, the board identified Dr. Traci Pierce, the district's deputy superintendent, as its preferred candidate.

The board introduced Dr. Pierce to the community through a series of community events. Among the reasons for the decision was the need for continuity in the face of several major initiatives, including the change in grade configuration. Board President Jackie Pendergrass noted that as board members spoke to individuals around the district, they heard a call for a superintendent who would keep the initiatives in place moving forward. Dr. Pierce had been leading many of the initiatives successfully.

Following the public events and input, the board voted on February 27 to hire Dr. Pierce as the district's new superintendent, to take Dr. Kimball's place on July 1, 2012.

A new school board member took part in that important vote. Siri Bliesner, who lives in District 5, replaced Ravi Shahani. Shahani left the board after serving two terms. Bliesner was sworn in at the January 9 board meeting.

Meanwhile, work on preparations for the new grade configuration took place among both the instructional and operational staff. The change for 2012-13 is from a grades K-6 elementary, grades 7-9 junior high and grades 10-12 high school system to a grades K-5 elementary, grades 6-8 middle school and grades 9-12 high school system. Many different programs were reexamined to determine the right fit for these new grade spans.

For example, the Quest program for highly capable students has served grades one through nine. Following an analysis, the program no longer tests kindergarten students. (Cognitive measures of ability are not well developed for students in kindergarten.) Instead, the Quest program will begin in second grade and run through eighth grade, the end of middle school.



# Year in Review



Instructional staff in both middle schools and high schools spent time determining what classes and programs will be offered to the new grade configurations in their schools. Plans to welcome the new grades into their schools were developed. Middle schools took the opportunity to develop a complete middle school philosophy. The new middle school belief statements position this level as a positive transition from elementary school to high school.

The human resources department was on overdrive all year, working with staff members who were interested in changing which level of students they will teach next year. With sixth grade moving to the middle schools, teachers determined if they wanted to move to a new school or to stay at their old school but change grades. Likewise, some junior high teachers chose to stay in middle school or move up to the high schools.



*Redmond High School*

Other operational work included building more high school space, specifically at Eastlake and Redmond High Schools. Plans developed to move two junior high Choice schools to free up more space for ninth graders at their current high school hosts. A set of modular buildings to house Northstar Middle School was placed on the campus that houses BEST High School and Family Learning Center, renamed Emerson campus, Emerson High School and Emerson K-12 respectively. Renaissance School of Art and Reasoning stayed on the Eastlake High School campus but its own cluster of modular buildings was placed on the property.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or STEM, was a topic of learning and planning this year. A new Choice high school open to students from around the district, focusing on STEM, was part of the Choice school admissions process

Three schools in LWSB were named “Schools of Distinction” by the Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE): Redmond Elementary, Samantha Smith Elementary and Renaissance School of Art and Reasoning. Ninety-nine schools statewide were selected for this award, which recognizes improvement in math and reading over a five-year period.

## Awards & Achievements

# Year in Review

this winter. The school received a grant of \$400,000 from the Paul Allen Family Foundation.

Science teachers from high schools around the district received training in problem-based learning. This kind of instructional program has proven successful in teaching science in secondary schools around the country. The district will be doing further work to use that learning to develop signature programs in STEM and other subjects at our high schools. These signature programs will enable students to do more specific learning in subject areas of their choosing.

In June, the district held a reception honoring and saying goodbye to Dr. Kimball. Dr. Pierce was one of the final speakers acknowledging Dr. Kimball's contributions to the district, marking an appropriate handing over of the responsibility for leading the district.

Dr. Pierce officially took over as superintendent on July 1, during what she termed, "the district's busiest summer ever." Final preparations for the grade configuration changes took place through July and August, the last months of the district's fiscal year. That meant everything from finishing additions at Eastlake and Redmond High Schools, moving Northstar and Renaissance Middle Schools to new quarters, and working on the new STEM School, to moving 1,936 boxes of textbooks and library books, to helping schools get ready to welcome new students and new teachers. We also had three new elementary school buildings opening through our modernization program. By the end of August, the year of planning and learning was complete, ready to launch into the new school year with the new configuration.

**Fifty-one outstanding music students from Lake Washington School District were selected to participate in the 2012 WMEA All-State performing groups. The students joined other outstanding high school student musicians from around the state in this gala event held in Yakima February 16-20, 2012. WMEA All-State musicians were selected through auditions to participate in this event, sponsored by the Washington Music Educators Association.**



*Eastlake High School*



## Awards & Achievements

# Teaching & Learning



## Grade configuration change

In 2010-11, planning for the grade configuration took place mostly at the district-wide level. For example, middle level principals together developed common beliefs and a framework to guide their educational program. Planning in 2011-12 became more concrete, as individual schools determined how they would implement the new configuration.

Given the shift from a junior high to a middle school model, this work was especially important at that level. Each middle school faculty took those common beliefs and framework and determined how they would be implemented in their school. Agreements which subjects might be taught together by the same teacher, through blocked classes, had to be made.

## Using data to improve instruction

Schools have long collected data on students: grades, state tests, other standardized tests. In recent years, there has been more understanding of how to use that data beyond informing students and parents about their progress, as a tool for teachers to help shape their instruction. Using data to determine each student's strengths and areas for improvement, teachers can determine specific interventions for individual students, groups of students that may need help and other students who may need challenges because they are ahead of their classmates.

The district has been in the process of developing a data dashboard that will allow principals and teachers to view all the data collected on a specific student, groups of students, or a whole school. In the fall of 2011, principals piloted the principal view of the data, which helps them see any

**Two Evergreen Junior High staff members, teacher Robert Kaneko and librarian Shauna Yusko were honored as 2011 ING "Unsung Heroes," recognizing them as two of the nation's most innovative educators. They received a \$2,000 ING Unsung Heroes grant they will use to help fund their "Beyond Reading" program. They are among only 100 winners across the country that received this award.**

## Awards & Achievements



# Teaching & Learning

patterns of which groups of students in their school are struggling in which areas. This information helps principals develop their Continuous Improvement Plan and determine where their resources should be focused. In the spring, all principals gained access to the system and received training in how to use it.

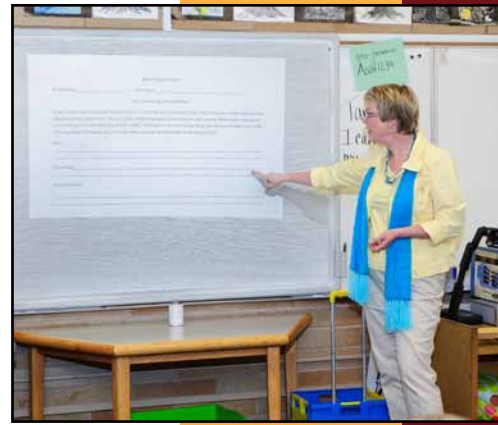
A group of teachers tested the system in spring and all teachers were trained on its use in May. The teacher view of the data shows them all the data collected on students in their class(es). Teachers in a grade or subject can meet together to review the data and determine how best to bring struggling students up to standard and how to challenge those students who are ahead.

## Changes planned for gifted program

In 2011, the district reviewed its gifted education program in light of the new grade configuration. The district announced that it will change the grades in which gifted education is offered through its Quest program from first through ninth grade to second through eighth grade. As of fall 2012, the district will no longer test kindergarten students. It will serve advanced students in regular first grade classrooms.

Cognitive measures of ability are not well developed for students in kindergarten. It is difficult to determine which students are “highly capable” students and which students are simply more knowledgeable about subjects measured by the test. This change brings Lake Washington in line with many other districts in the area that also begin their gifted education program in second grade.

William “Bill” Monahan, a biology teacher at Eastlake High School, received the Washington Science Teachers Association (WSTA) Teacher of the Year Award. The selection committee commented that Bill’s “deep record of commitment to students, effectiveness in education and outreach are exemplary to younger teachers.”



## Awards & Achievements

# Teaching & Learning

## Curriculum adoptions

The district reviews major curriculum adoptions on a regular schedule, updating the curriculum every eight to ten years. During the 2011-12 school year, curriculum adoption committees completed a two-year review of the following curricula: grades K-12 Music, grades K-12 Fitness, grades 6-12 Health, grades 6-12 Visual Arts, grades 8-12 Spanish.

The Curriculum Adoption Committees reviewed research and best practice to begin the process. They prioritized standards – what we want students to know and be able to do. They developed several tools to help them evaluate various curricula. These tools included: Best Practice Alignment, Standards Alignment, Assessment Alignment, Organization and Design, and Technology Integration. Each committee evaluated curricula within their discipline, narrowed finalist choices and heard presentations from publishers. The district's Instructional Materials Committee then reviewed and approved the committee recommendations.

## 2011-12 curriculum adoptions:

### Middle School Visual Arts:

The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History, From Prehistoric to Post-Modern, by Carol Strickland and John Boswell. Andrews McMeel Publishing, LLC, 2007.

### Middle School Visual Arts:

A Global Pursuit, Second Edition, by Steward and Katter. Davis Publications, Inc., 2009.

### High School Visual Arts:

The Visual Experience, Third Edition, by Jack Hobbs, Richard Salome, Ken Vieth. Davis Publications, Inc., 2005.

Mike Town, a teacher at Redmond High School, was named a Washington State Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) 2011-2012 Science Champion: Science Education Advocate. LASER is a program that is co-led by Pacific Science Center and Battelle. Awardees received \$5,000 each to be donated to the not-for-profit public education entity of their choice for use in its efforts on behalf of science education.

## Awards & Achievements



# Teaching & Learning

## **Middle and High School Fitness:**

Focus Fitness Five for Life Program: Intermediate/Advanced & WELNet online resource, by Karen Cowan, Jan Gleich, Amy Lutz, Ron Malm, Ted Vaughn and Linda Bushinski. Focused Fitness, 2008.

## **Middle School Health:**

Teen Health Course 3, by Mary Bronson, Michael Cleary and Betty Hubbard. Glencoe/McGraw-Hill, 2009.

## **High School Health:**

Prentice Hall Health, by Pruitt, Allegrante, and Prothow-Stith. Prentice Hall, 2010.

## **K-5 Music:**

Spotlight on Music, multiple authors. Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, 2011.

## **Middle School Band:**

Essential Elements A Comprehensive Band Method, by Rhodes, Bierschenk, Lautzenheiser. Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, 1998.

## **Middle School Band:**

Tradition of Excellence, by Richard Williams and Jeff King. Kjos Music Press, 1998.

## **Middle School Orchestra:**

Essential Elements 2000 for Strings, by Allen, Gillespie, and Tellejohn Hayes. Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, 2004.

## **High School Band:**

Foundations for Superior Performance, by Richard Williams and Jeff King. Kjos Music Press, 1998.

## **High School Choir:**

Experiencing Choral Music. Glencoe/McGraw Hill Publishing Corporation, 2005.

Sophia Xu, a senior at Redmond High School (class of 2012), was named a semifinalist in the Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology. Through this competition, students have an opportunity to achieve national recognition for science research projects that they complete in high school. Sophia was one of only two semifinalists from Washington state.



## Awards & Achievements

# Academic Performance

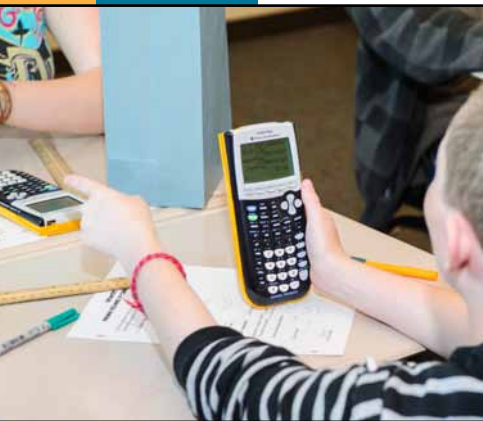
## Lake Washington students continue to outperform state on standardized tests

Last year, the watchword for state testing was “new,” with brand new tests at all grade levels. This year, only the End of Course (EOC) exams in biology for secondary students were new. Other tests were comparable to the year before. The results for Lake Washington reflected increases in most grades and most subjects. District averages continue to score significantly higher than state averages, from 15 to 20 percent higher in most grades and subjects.

Science scores showed significant increases for both state and district scores. Changes in the science standards tested in grades five and eight led to those differences. District science scores continue to show the greatest difference compared to the state average of any subject. (See chart on following page for scores.)

## End of Course (EOC) exams are new

EOC scores listed for 10th grade math are the percentage of students meeting standard on the test at the end of the course, no matter what grade they are in (grades six through 12). EOC Math Year 1 is Algebra while Year 2 is Geometry. More information about the MSP and HSPE results for 2011-2012 is available on the [district website](#). (See chart on following page for scores.)



Twenty-five Lake Washington School District (LWSD) high school seniors qualified as semifinalists in the 56th annual National Merit Scholarship Program, including 14 from Redmond High School. As finalists, these students qualified to receive National Merit Scholarships, including \$2500 awards, corporate-sponsored scholarships or college-sponsored scholarships. About 15,000 students nationally were named finalists in this competition.

## Awards & Achievements

# Academic Performance

## 2011 and 2012 MSP/HSPE Scores

MSP/HSPE	Reading		Math		Writing		Science	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
3rd - LWSD	88	86	77	82	*	*	*	*
3rd - State	73	69	62	65	*	*	*	*
4th - LWSD	85	85	77	80	82	80	*	*
4th - State	67	71	59	59	61	61	*	*
5th - LWSD	85	86	75	82	*	*	80	87
5th - State	68	71	61	64	*	*	56	66
6th - LWSD	87	86	79	83	*	*	*	*
6th - State	71	71	59	61	*	*	*	*
7th - LWSD	75	87	74	81	87	89	*	*
7th - State	56	71	57	59	71	71	*	*
8th - LWSD	87	84	70	73	*	*	85	85
8th - State	69	67	50	55	*	*	62	66
HSPE: 10th - LWSD	92	92	See EOC	See EOC	94	95	74	See EOC
HSPE: 10th - State	82	81	See EOC	See EOC	86	85	50	See EOC

\*Subject not tested at this grade.

End of Course (EOC)	EOC Math Year 1 2010-2011	EOC Math Year 1 2011-2012	EOC Math Year 2 2010-2011	EOC Math Year 2 2011-2012
All Grades LWSD	80	82	83	89
All Grades State	62	73	74	79

End of Course (EOC)	EOC Biology 2011-2012
All Grades LWSD	81
All Grades State	64

Monisha Gulabani, a senior at Eastlake High School (class of 2012), was named one of 141 Presidential Scholars for 2012 by the U.S. Department of Education. Presidential Scholars are chosen for demonstrating outstanding academic achievements, artistic excellence, leadership, citizenship, service and contributions to school and community. She was honored at an event in Washington, D.C., in June.

## Awards & Achievements

# Academic Performance



## SAT scores rise

LWSD seniors in the class of 2011 scored higher overall on the [SAT](#) than students from previous years. District students continue to score well above state and national averages. Scores in the district increased incrementally, up two points each in reading and writing while decreasing one point in math. At the same time, Washington state and national scores were lower in reading and math. State scores remained stable in writing while national averages fell three points.

Over the last five years, average SAT scores in Washington and nationally have fallen or remained the same. At the same time, Lake Washington's average scores have increased 11 points in critical reading, nine in math and 16 in writing on average.

SAT Scores	Critical Reading			Mathematics			Writing		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
LWSD	560	562	560	573	572	581	555	557	554
State	524	523	519	532	529	530	508	508	503
National	501	497	496	515	514	514	492	489	488

Jihoon Lee, a senior at Redmond High School (class of 2012) was selected as one of the two Washington winners of the 2011 Siemens Foundation's Advanced Placement (AP) Awards for earning the highest math and science AP exam scores in the state. In 2011, 101 high school students in 50 states were recognized.

## Awards & Achievements

# Academic Performance

## More LWSD students than ever meet ACT college-readiness benchmarks

While state mean scores for college-bound students fell slightly in all categories this year, LWSD students scored higher in all four of the ACT tests (English, Mathematics, Reading and Science) and improved their average composite score. In addition, Lake Washington students continue to show significantly greater college readiness than state averages and more than twice the national average for meeting all four benchmark scores. The district's average composite score rose by three tenths from 2010 to 2011, reaching 25.6, compared to the state average of 22.8 (down .2), and the national average of 21.0. At the same time, the number of LWSD students taking the test increased, rising from 408 in 2010 to 421 in 2011.

ACT Composite Scores	2010	2011	2012
LWSD	25.3	25.6	25.5
State	23.0	22.8	22.9
National	21.0	21.0	21.1

## Lake Washington named to AP district honor roll

Lake Washington School District was named by the College Board to its [3rd Annual AP District Honor Roll](#) for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Achieving both of these goals indicates that the district is successfully increasing access to these rigorous courses while ensuring that students succeed. More than 90 percent of colleges and universities across the U.S. offer college credit, advanced placement or both for a score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam, which can potentially save students and their families thousands of dollars in college tuition.

Advanced Placement	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
# of Exams Given	2,555	2,731	2,825
Pass %	80%	77%	79%

A total of 539 school districts across 44 of 50 states in the U.S. and six Canadian provinces achieved honor roll status. Eighteen districts in the state of Washington achieved this honor.

The total number of AP tests taken by LWSD students reached 2,825 in 2012, up from 2,555 in 2010. At the same time, the rate of students achieving a score of 3 or higher remained very similar, at 80% in 2010 and 79% in 2012.

# Technology

In 2010, district voters passed a technology levy designed to increase computer access for students in the district. The Mobile Access for Students initiative, funded by this technology levy, is designed to help students learn the information and communication technology skills outlined in the district's [Student Profile](#).

In 2011-12, small laptop computers were issued to all district elementary schools. At the elementary level, mobile devices are shared between classrooms, housed on carts that can be used to store and charge up the laptops when they are not in use. These carts of computers become group learning labs that teachers use to enrich and expand their lessons. Depending on the grade, computers are available on a three to one or two to one student to computer ratio.

Students learn basic computer skills beginning in kindergarten. Students at that level can learn to log on to a computer, create a simple document and use basic instructional software. Teachers may take advantage of online resources for district curriculum in math or social studies, for example. Computers can be used to help struggling students or create challenges for students who are more advanced.

At the middle and high school level, pilot tests expanded in 2011-12 to entire schools and to whole grades at other schools. These pilots laid the groundwork for issuing each middle and high school student their own laptop in the 2012-13 school year. Work continue to help the district prepare operationally – how the laptops are issued, charged, set up, and technical help provided to users. It also helped teachers test out ways to use the computers instructionally.

**Gabriel See, a ninth grade student at the Renaissance School of Art and Reasoning, was one of four students nominated for the “TechFlash Youth of the Year,” a new award given at The 2011 Flashies, the annual TechFlash Newsmaker Awards. Gabriel was cited for his creation of a robot capable of such fine-motor movements that it might be used in medical research, at a cost far below similar commercial systems. As a result of this work, he was named as one of the country’s top ten high school inventors by Popular Science magazine.**

## Awards & Achievements



# Technology

Some examples of ways the computers are being used at the middle level are showcased [on the district website](#). For example, science teachers at Inglewood Junior High used laptops and temperature probes as mobile labs, allowing them to view real time temperature graphs during experiments; shoot photos or videos of experiments in progress; take detailed notes, which they can easily edit, share, and then turn in as formal lab reports. This kind of active engagement in doing science can involve students and increase learning.

To ensure that teachers are able to use mobile technology wisely and well, teachers at all levels have been deeply involved in selecting and pilot testing devices. Most importantly, teachers are collaborating and sharing innovative lessons and approaches to learning using these tools. Every teacher in the district is receiving specific training on a continuing basis to help them integrate this technology into their teaching practice.



Julie Hembree, the librarian at Bell Elementary, and Kathy Wright, a technology teacher at Eastlake High School, were both selected to compete for top honors at the Microsoft Partners in Learning 2012 U.S. Forum. They are just two out of 102 innovative educators who competed to represent the U.S. at Microsoft's global competition in Athens, Greece, in November. All 102 educators showcased the creative ways that they are transforming learning through technology at Microsoft headquarters July 31 through August 1.

## Awards & Achievements

# Facilities

## **Two new schools open, construction continues at other schools**

Lake Washington High School (LWHS) and Finn Hill Junior High (now Finn Hill Middle School) opened on time and on budget during the 2011-2012 school year. Both of these schools meet and exceed the Washington State Sustainable Schools Protocol.

### **Lake Washington High School**

Lake Washington High School's new building is designed to create connections and serve the needs of students. Classroom wings feature shared instructional spaces that can be used by one or more surrounding classroom. Some of the elective classrooms are designed for the needs of specific subjects. A culinary arts classroom is equipped with professional stoves and a large walk-in refrigerator, for example.

Other features at LWHS include a large cafeteria and a performing arts center, both of which are designed to enhance collaboration and bring groups of people together. The counseling center is located right off of the central commons, next to the cafeteria. This accessibility is designed to encourage students to seek career and college information during their lunch hours.

The building also includes a number of sustainable features, which are also designed to save money and maintenance. A large solar panel array will generate enough electricity to power about six classrooms. The geo-thermal heating system will reduce energy needs for heating and cooling. Other features include low flow toilet fixtures, generous use of daylight, exterior sun shields and recycled and renewable materials.



*Lake Washington High School*

Lake Washington School District was the only K-12 educational institution on the list of Seattle Magazine's 2011 Washington Green 50 List of the most sustainably operated companies and organizations in Washington. The University of Washington and Washington State University were the other educational institutions named. A panel of expert judges chose the winning organizations from a pool of more than 150 nominees.

## **Awards & Achievements**

# Facilities

## **Finn Hill Middle School/Environmental and Adventure School**

The Finn Hill Middle School/Environmental and Adventure School building is designed as an environment for learning. Teaching spaces are organized around shared instructional areas. A central courtyard and commons fosters school-wide interaction. The school creates a direct relationship to the outdoors for every classroom pod. The building is also designed for very low energy use, featuring the largest solar panel array of a K-12 school district in the state of Washington, low flow fixtures, maximum use of daylight, sun shading devices, windows that open and close automatically to let in fresh air, recycled and recyclable materials.



*Finn Hill Middle School*

## **Underway**

Several other schools in the second phase of the district's modernization program were underway in 2011-12. Keller Elementary, Muir Elementary and Sandburg Elementary/Discovery Community School were all in progress, aiming toward a Fall 2012 opening date. Rush Elementary School and the new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) High School were in the works with a mid-year opening date of January 2013 in mind. The final three buildings in phase 3 – Bell Elementary School, Rose Hill Middle School/Stella Schola and International Community School/Community School – all were underway. They are scheduled to open in Fall 2013. In addition, Rush Elementary School, which is being built in phases, will get into the last part of their new building in fall 2013.



**Meg Town**, a teacher at Redmond Junior High, was the recipient of the Edward C. Roy, Jr. Award for Excellence in K-8 Earth Science Teaching. This \$2,500 prize honors the memory of Dr. Edward C. Roy, Jr., a past president of the American Geosciences Institute (AGI), a professor at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas.

## **Awards & Achievements**

# Facilities

## Moves

As a result of the reconfiguration planning, two choice middle schools received the news that they would move. Renaissance School, which has been housed in the Eastlake High School building, moves to its own set of portable buildings on the Eastlake campus in the fall of 2012. Northstar Middle School, which has been housed at Lake Washington High School, moves to its own set of portable buildings on the Emerson High School campus in the fall of 2012 as well. Both moves free up space in two of the comprehensive high schools that is needed for ninth grade students as the district moves to four year high schools.

## Capital Levy Projects

A capital levy passed in 2006 funded major maintenance projects that go beyond regular building maintenance. These major projects include upgrades to building systems and replacements of systems based on a life cycle priority review process. The list that follows shows the projects completed in 2011-12:

- **District wide:** Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades; weather system upgrades
- **BEST (Emerson) High:** Art room floor/kiln railing; clock system upgrade, new signage
- **Dickinson Elementary:** Special education room upgrade; music room flooring
- **Evergreen Middle:** New signage
- **Inglewood Middle:** New signage



*Northstar Middle School*

Andy Yu, a senior at Redmond High School (class of 2012), successfully completed the National Association of Student Councils (NASC) Student Leaders Program, earning national certification as a student leader. He was one of approximately 100 students in the nation to achieve this recognition. This certification is sponsored by the NASC and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

## Awards & Achievements

# Facilities

- **Juanita High:** Pool Dehumidifier; science lab hood improvements; urinal dividers; cafeteria reconfiguration; field turf upgrade
- **Kirkland Middle:** New signage
- **Kamiakin Middle:** New signage; Ventilation System Upgrade; roof assessment
- **Lake Washington High School:** Field upgrade
- **Lakeview Elementary:** De-escalation room
- **Redmond High:** Theater ADA improvements
- **Redmond Middle:** New signage; urinal dividers; roof assessment; add double portable
- **Resource Center:** Broadcast room heat reduction; restroom hand driers
- **Rockwell Elementary:** Roof assessment; site drainage improvement
- **Rosa Parks Elementary:** Add double portable
- **Twain Elementary:** De-escalation room
- **Support Services:** Freezer upgrade; roof assessment
- **Wilder Elementary:** Roof assessment



Fourteen LWSD schools were recognized with 2011 Washington Achievement Awards from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. Schools included: Audubon Elementary, Eastlake High, Explorer Community School, International Community School, Juanita Elementary, Juanita High, Lake Washington High, Mann Elementary, Northstar Junior High, Renaissance School of Art & Reasoning, Rockwell Elementary, Rosa Parks Elementary, Rush Elementary, and Stella Schola Middle School.

## Awards & Achievements

# Financial Information



In November, we shared the highlights of the last school year's educational and operational programs. This report shares information on last school year's financial report as well as on school district funding.

Since 2009, state cuts reduced the funding the district received to lower class sizes in grades K-4. A total of \$13 million was cut from Lake Washington's budget over three school years, ending with 2011-12. The district absorbed the cuts in the previous two years, using local levy dollars and cuts in other areas to maintain the smaller class sizes. After two years of absorbing over \$11 million in cuts, in 2011-12, the district could not absorb the additional state budget reduction of \$1.5 million. That cut resulted in a modest increase in class size of just over one student per class for grades K-4. No teachers were laid off, since the reduction was achieved by attrition.

Rising enrollments have helped reduce the impact of state budget cuts. Since state funding is based on enrollment, additional students mean more revenue to help pay fixed costs. Enrollment has increased steadily since 2007, when the district had 23,566 students. In October 2011, district enrollment was 24,912, or 323 more students than the previous year. Projections call for more increases in student enrollment in the coming years.

Money was set aside for one-time costs in preparation for the grade configuration change that was implemented in the fall of 2012 and in start-up costs for the new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) choice high school. Changing the grade configuration to K-5 elementary, grades 6-8 middle school and grades 9-12 high school was important for educational reasons, but it also made

**Gary Moed, principal at Juanita High School, was selected as the KingCo 3A Principal of the Year. Each year, the KingCo league (comprising 19 schools), selects a principal of the year who embodies leadership attributes that are acknowledged and appreciated by his/her principal peers. Gary was chosen in recognition of the impact his leadership has had on student achievement and program development at Juanita High School.**

# Financial Information

financial sense. Overall, district high schools had classroom space available while most elementary schools were filled to capacity and some beyond that. The new grade configuration made better use of the school building space available in the district, delaying the need to build more elementary schools.

The district planned to use a small amount of its general fund balance in 2011-12 to keep from making additional cuts to services. The final accounting, however, shows that expenses were close to \$1 million under revenue.

The district has a long standing commitment to focusing expenditures in the classroom. A review of expenditures compared with other similar districts shows the impact of those priorities. (Note: data from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction used here is from 2010-11 since the data for 2011-12 is not yet available.)

- The district spends more as a percent of its budget on teaching alone than any school district in the state with more than 10,000 students.

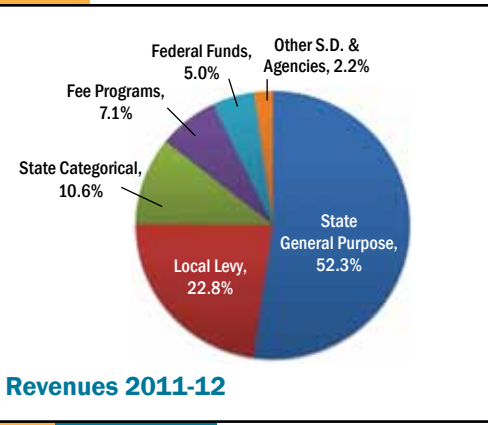
To focus more money on teaching other areas must cope with less funding:

- Lake Washington is one of four school districts among the 30 with over 10,000 students to spend less than five percent of its budget on central administration.
- Other areas where the district spends less on average are maintenance and operations as well as student transportation.



All Funds 2011-12	Beginning Fund Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Fund Balance
General	\$21,723,065	\$224,149,155	\$223,201,134	\$22,671,086
ASB	\$871,180	\$2,840,030	\$2,903,765	\$807,445
Debt	\$4,086,736	\$38,159,581	\$34,345,699	\$7,900,618
Capital	\$216,285,140	\$91,118,924	\$161,013,477	\$146,390,587
Transportation Vehicle Fund	\$1,349,995	\$832,537	\$175,482	\$2,007,050

# Financial Information



## Where the money comes from – General Fund

The school district is limited in the sources of funding it is allowed to use. The largest sources of funds are state government, the local levy and fee programs, in that order. The amount of money the district can get from each source is limited. While fees can be charged for some programs that are outside of basic education, the district has few potential sources of income to increase its general fund budget.

### State General Purpose – 52.3%

The largest portion of the district's general fund revenue comes directly from the state. The state general purpose funding is determined by enrollment and a series of formula factors including legislatively set salary, employee benefit and non-labor allocations.

### State categorical – 10.6%

Additional state funds are provided for specific programs and can only be used for those programs. These funds help pay for programs including special education, student transportation, and programs that support students with specific academic needs, such as English Language Learners (ELL).

### Local Levy – 22.8%

The local educational programs & operations levy, last approved by district voters in 2010 for four years, is the second largest funding source for the district's general operating fund. The state legislature caps the amount the district can collect in its levy.

### Fee programs – 7.1%

These funds are generated by fee-based programs such as school lunches, all-day kindergarten, extended day care, athletics, and preschool. Investment earnings are also included.

### Federal Funds – 5.0%

Federal dollars are provided to fund programs such as Title I (educational assistance for schools with low income students) and Head Start. These monies also provide supplemental funding for special education programs and support free and reduced price lunches for qualified students. Like the state categorical funding, these dollars can only be used for their specific program purpose.



# Financial Information

## Other School District & Agency Funds – 2.2%

The district receives payments from other districts for participation in joint programs. Also included are grants from non-state agencies and transfers from the Capital Levy account for technology training and applications.

## Where the money goes – General Fund

### Total Teaching – 73.7%

This portion of the district’s budget is spent in and on the classroom, including expenditures for teachers, counselors, librarians, educational assistants, teaching supplies, materials, textbooks, instructional staff development, assessment and curriculum development. Also included are expenditures for pupil management and safety, health-related services, activities/athletics support and supervision, and community services and programs.

### Maintenance & Operation – 6.8%

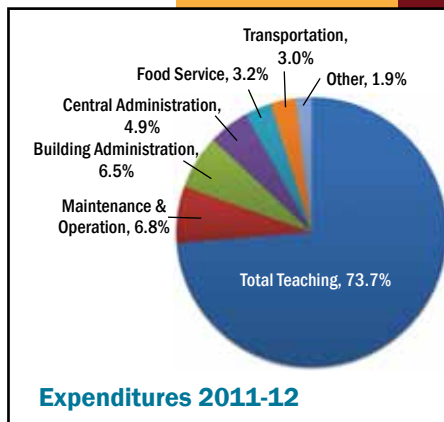
These expenses include costs to maintain the district’s facilities. This segment covers grounds and building maintenance, cleaning services, utilities costs and building and property security.

### Building Administration – 6.5%

This segment covers building administration, including principals, and school support, such as secretaries and office supplies.

### Central Administration – 4.9%

These expenses include development, coordination and evaluation of instructional programs by the superintendent and central office. Also included are business and human resources, supervision for food service, maintenance and transportation, communications and legal costs.



# Financial Information



## **Food Service – 3.2%**

This segment includes the costs for food and operations for the district lunch and breakfast program.

## **Transportation – 3.0%**

This segment includes the operations, maintenance and insurance for transporting students.

## **Other – 1.9%**

These expenses include property and liability insurance, information systems, printing, warehouse and distribution services. Also included are expenses related to the Extended Day program, which provides fee-based before and after school care for students.

## **Other Funds**

The district does separate accounting for several other funds.

- The Debt Service Fund provides for the redemption and payment of interest on bonds.
- The Capital Projects Fund accounts for the financing and expenditures of capital projects such as building modernization, construction of new schools, major renovations and technology systems.
- The Transportation Vehicle Fund covers the purchase and major repair of school buses and transportation vehicles.
- The Associated Student Body Fund accounts for student extracurricular activities in each school.

In July 2012, Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn announced \$213 million in capital construction money approved and released to school districts throughout the state, including close to \$14 million for Lake Washington School District. The four school projects that received the funds are: Alexander Graham Bell Elementary, Kirkland, Benjamin Rush Elementary, Redmond, Rose Hill/Stella Schola Middle Schools, Redmond, and International Community School/Community School, Kirkland.

# Parent/Community Connections

Parent and community involvement in our schools is key to the success of our district. LWSD strives to get parents and community members involved in our schools. Being engaged in your child's school can make a big difference: your child learns how much you value education and you learn more about what is happening at school and how you can support your child's learning. Volunteering your time to serve as a mentor can make a huge difference for the student you mentor and be very rewarding.

## LWSD joins Facebook and Twitter

In February, LWSD decided to connect with parents and community members in a new way – where they are – on social media. The district launched a Facebook page and a Twitter account to keep parents and community members updated on events and activities in our schools. Both accounts are monitored by the Communications office.

The Facebook page in particular has given parents a place to get questions answered and helps the district learn about parent concerns and what they are interested in.

Please join the conversation! We can be found on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/lakewashingtonschools](http://www.facebook.com/lakewashingtonschools). On Twitter, the account is @LakeWashSchools (<https://twitter.com/LakeWashSchools>).



Students, parents, teachers and staff members who share a passion for environmental conservation were honored by King County Executive Dow Constantine at the County's annual "Earth Heroes at School" ceremony on April 26. This includes two schools from LWSD, Environmental and Adventure School (Kirkland) and Margaret Mead Elementary (Sammamish).

## Awards & Achievements

# Parent/Community Connections



## **Want to get involved? Become a volunteer**

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in public education. More than 11,000 approved volunteers in LWS D work with staff members to help our students be successful. Some volunteers choose to participate in one event or field trip, while others volunteer on a regular basis. To ensure the safety of our students, each volunteer completes a short application packet and a background check is completed before they can begin working with students. Visit the [Volunteering with LWS D](#) section of the district website to find out how to apply and get involved.

## **LINKS volunteers continue to make a difference**

LINKS (Looking Into the Needs of Kids and Schools) is an LWS D program funded by the Lake Washington Schools Foundation with the help of generous foundations and donors. LINKS recruits and places community volunteers in schools. During the 2011-12 school year, 257 community volunteers provided 7,361 hours of mentoring and/or tutoring to district students in 23 schools through LINKS.

LINKS volunteers help student learning across the district in a number of ways. They serve as academic mentors, tutors, classroom tutors or lunch buddies. A lunch buddy is a volunteer who meets with the same elementary-age student for one hour (over lunch and lunch recess) each week. Some volunteers serve as one-on-one academic mentors for students while others offer their help during after school study programs or in the classroom with groups of students. Visit the [LINKS](#) section of the district website for more information, or to sign up to serve as a LINKS volunteer.



# Educational Options

## **New STEM School to begin with 9th/10th Grades**

Plans for Lake Washington School District's new Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) School took shape last year, in preparation for opening in the fall of 2012 with 150 ninth grade and 150 10th grade students. When fully operational, the school will serve students in grades nine through 12. The academic program will focus on problem-based learning, inquiry, integration and research. Students and staff will use STEM education to pursue solutions to real world challenges like clean energy, infrastructure restoration and biomedical informatics.

The school is open to all students in those grades no matter where they live in Lake Washington School District. Students were selected through a lottery.

In the fall of 2013, a new class of ninth graders will enter the school, while students in ninth and 10th grade in the fall of 2012 will matriculate into 10th and 11th grade, respectively. In the fall of 2014, another class of ninth graders will enter. The three classes from 2013-14 will all move up one grade. The result is that classes in all four grades, nine through 12, will be in operation as of the fall of 2014.

The first two years of study in the school will use an integrated approach to the core classes, weaving the STEM theme into all areas of study. In the junior and senior years, students will select a STEM lab concentration, which will combine several classes in a specific focus area, such as environmental engineering and design or computer science. A limited number of students who have not attended the STEM school in their freshman and sophomore years will also be able to access these lab sequences while completing their core classes in their home high school.

Principal Cindy Duenas recruited staff from within the district to form the new school's planning team. This team developed the school's academic program in preparation for opening in the fall of 2012. The team also formed the core staff when the school opened.



*STEM School*



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For a printed copy of the Lake Washington School District Annual Report, please contact the communications department at (425) 936-1300.

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