Hillcrest Elementary

Hillcrest is a fantastic community of learners. We have a diverse student body who come to school excited to learn each day. Our staff is highly educated and motivated to meet the needs of all the learners we serve.

Academic Accomplishments

For the second year in a row Hillcrest students have made outstanding academic gains as measured by the state’s Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) test. For example, in third and fifth grade, at least 80% of students met standard in math on this challenging assessment and Hillcrest students scored above the state average in six out of eight measured categories. This high level of achievement has led the State of Washington to name Hillcrest as a Reward School which means our school is performing in the top 10% of all Title 1 schools in the state. Academic achievement is one measure of an effective school, and Hillcrest is excelling in this area.

Student Ethnic Composition

American Indian - .4%
Asian - 3.6%
Pacific Islander - .7%
Asian Pacific Islander - 4.4%
Afro-American - 2.5%
Hispanic - 18.0%
Two or more races - 7.1%
White - 67.6%

Academic Goals

Our staff will continue to use student data to guide our professional conversations and our classroom instruction. We are focusing very specifically on the area of reading comprehension. We are evaluating how we assess our students, how we best teach them to comprehend text, and what we need to change in order to help students excel in this critical area. We will continue working with our successful math program, Expressions, and we will implement strategies for helping students understand and successfully solve multi-step word problems. As writers our students will learn to apply and communicate about the Six Traits of Writing and practice writing a variety of engaging pieces. Our academic goals are well rounded and driven by our analysis of best instructional practices and the data we collect on our student progress.

How You Can Help

One of the qualities we are most proud of at Hillcrest is the great sense of community we create here each day. Volunteers are welcomed with open arms. Currently, volunteers help out in classrooms, support teachers with material preparation, eat with students in our “Lunch Buddy” program and much more. We encourage any and all families to participate as much as possible at Hillcrest.

At home you can help by working with your child to master his or her math skills. One way to do this is to use our on-line math program, IXL Math, regularly. Also, reading with your child every day and providing opportunities for him or her to read independently from books, magazines, or RAZ Kids is extremely helpful.

Make sure your children know the importance of school by having them attend every day, and on time every day.

About Our Students

We believe that every student is capable and deserving of the best possible educational program. We do not retain, suspend or expel students unless all avenues for success have been explored. We view the school as the place for each child to receive an excellent education and lifelong skills. We stress the importance of regular attendance, promptness, responsibility for work and decision making and behaving in a positive and cooperative manner. Hillcrest has an unexcused absence rate of .4%.

Supplementary Programs

The following data reflects the percentage of Hillcrest students benefiting from supplemental programs:
Free or Reduced Meals – 47.1%
Special Education – 25.2%
Transitional Bilingual – 9.3%
(Interpreting services are provided for all non-English speaking families during conference week.)
Highly Capable - 15 students
Average Class Size - 26
About our Staff
Currently Hillcrest has 33 certificated teachers and support professionals assisted by 21 paraeducators and support staff guided by one principal. Additionally, all district buildings are also supported by custodians, grounds, maintenance and technology personnel. On average Hillcrest teachers have 11 years of teaching experience and 62% have a master’s degree. All Hillcrest teachers meet the highly qualified designation as outlined by the federal No Child Left Behind law.

About Our School Building
Hillcrest was built in 1953 and remodeled with an addition in 1977. During the 2007-2008 academic year the building was closed for a complete modernization and reopened in the fall of 2008. It sits on a 15 acre site that exceeds the standards for elementary schools. Hillcrest serves 650 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. We have 25 classrooms, six portable classrooms, a multipurpose room, library, music room, and an outside play area and covered play area.

About Our Financial Resources
For the 2012-13 fiscal year the General Fund budget revenue totals $70.0 million. The School Board has set a minimum budgeted ending fund balance of 5% of expenditures that is necessary to accommodate normal cash flow.
Approximately 72.1% of the revenue comes from the state for basic education and special programs. The state provides an average of $5,063 per full time student to Lake Stevens. All I-728 (Class Size) funding has been cut from the state budget.
Twenty-one percent of the revenue comes from the citizens of the community through the levy of voter approved taxes and various fees and donations.

Nearly 82.7% of the expenditures are payment of salaries and benefits for the employees of the district. The balance of the expenditure budget is used in the areas of supplies and materials, purchased services, capital outlay and travel.

Washington State / District Assessment Plan
In the spring of 2012 students in grades three through five took the statewide MSP (Measurement of Student Progress test). This is a state standards based assessment in math, reading, writing, and science. Students must demonstrate mastery in order to meet standards in each subject area. The MSP is a multiple choice, fill-in and short answer test with the exception of the writing portion, which is an essay response. You may refer to the district’s website at www.lkstevens.wednet.edu and click on District, Reports, for a complete look at district scores.

Teachers routinely conduct formative assessments in reading, math, and expository writing skills to gauge how individual students are learning, and to tailor instruction accordingly. The DIBELS test is used K-5 to assess three major literacy skills, which enables teachers to tailor instruction to meet individual student’s strength and growth opportunities for reading skills. Progress is monitored over the course of the academic year through all forms of formative assessment.

This year all Washington schools will be evaluated in 11 proficiency areas as provided through the 2012 state testing score results. The state has set annual improvement goals for each school to achieve in the areas of reading and math. These goals are defined as Annual Measurable Outcomes (AMOs) and are targets that aim to cut in half the proficiency gaps in the 11 areas by 2016-17.

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