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 third year in a row, Hillcrest students made outstanding gains as measured by the state’s Measurements of Student Progress test. In fourth-grade more than 80 percent of students met standard in reading and math, and writing scores have increased four years in a row. Hillcrest was recognized as a Washington Achievement Award winner—we are one of only nine Title 1 schools in the state to earn “Reward” status two years in a row. This means our students are achieving in the top 10 percent of all Title 1 schools in the state. As a school community, we are very proud of the academic success our students show each year.

Student Ethnic Composition

- American Indian: .1%
- Asian: 3.5%
- Pacific Islander: 4%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 3.9%
- Black/African American: 1.5%
- Hispanic: 19.4%
- Two or more races: 8.2%
- White: 66.9%

(Totals will not equal 100%)

Academic Goals

Our staff will continue to use student data to guide our professional conversations and our classroom instruction. Our major academic focus this year is helping our students transition into meeting the new expectations of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). One way we are doing this is to provide students instruction and practice in justifying their thinking/opinions in all subject areas with relevant evidence and clear communication. As students become confident communicating their ideas and backing them up with appropriate evidence, they will gain in confidence and excel in all academic areas. We are confident that our students will be well prepared for the transition to the CCSS.

How You Can Help

One of the qualities we are most proud of at Hillcrest is the great sense of community we create each day. Volunteers are welcomed with open arms. Currently, volunteers help in classrooms, support teachers with material preparation, eat with students in our “Lunch Buddy” program and much more. We encourage families and community members 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 (and arrive on time) every day.

About Our Students

We believe 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 .3 percent.

Supplementary Programs

The following data reflects the percentage of Hillcrest students benefiting from supplemental programs:

- Free or Reduced Meals: 42.9%
- Special Education: 11%
- Transitional Bilingual: 10%(Interpreting services are provided for all non-English speaking families during conference week.)
- Highly Capable: 20 students
- Average Class Size: 26
About our Staff

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 more than 65 percent 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 2007-08 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 680 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 two covered play areas.

About Our Financial Resources

For the 2013-14 fiscal year the general fund budget revenue totals $74.9 million. The school board has set a minimum budgeted ending fund balance of 5 percent of expenditures that is necessary to accommodate normal cash flow. Approximately 74.1 percent of the revenue comes from the state for basic education and special programs. The state provides an average of $5,421 per full time student to Lake Stevens School District. All I-728 (class size) funding has been cut from the state budget. A total of 19.6 percent of the revenue comes from the citizens of the community through the levy of voter approved taxes and various fees and donations.

Washington State/District Assessment Plan

In the spring of 2013 students in grades three through five took the Measurements of Student Progress. These are standards-based assessments of reading, writing, math and science. Students must demonstrate proficiency or mastery in order to meet standards in each area. The tests use a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay responses. You may refer to the district’s website at www.lkstevens.wednet.edu and click on “Our District” and “Reports” for a comprehensive district and individual school report card.

All district students grades K-5 were assessed on reading, writing, and math target skills through benchmark assessments. Additionally, all elementary students participated in the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills assessment to measure major literacy skills. Information gathered from these assessments enable teachers to tailor instruction to meet individual student’s strengths and growth opportunities. Progress on skills is monitored over the course of the academic year.

Measurements of Student Progress: Percentage Meeting Standard

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