Highland Elementary

Highland Elementary is a beautiful school which opened its doors in the fall of 1999. Our students, staff and families are what make this building special. As you walk through the front doors, visitors can feel the positive climate immediately. Our staff is committed to meeting the needs of each student at Highland, while helping students discover their greatness and potential. We work collaboratively to ensure that Highland is a safe, nurturing and rigorous place to think and grow. Our school’s mission: “Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow,” represents our focus on ensuring that each student at Highland is provided the opportunity to cultivate his or her leadership qualities and skills while working to improve our academic skills.

About Our Students

At Highland, we work each day to develop the greatness contained within each of our students. Our goal is to help every student recognize his/her strengths and build upon them, while at the same time learning to understand any weaknesses that arise so they can continually improve and grow. We wish for our students to take risks, seize opportunities to become creative problem solvers, compassionate leaders, and change-makers as they move forward in this world.

Supplementary Programs

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

- Free or Reduced Meals: 22.6%
- Special Education: 13%
- Transitional Bilingual: 2.6%
- Highly Capable: 31 students
- Average Class Size: 25

Student Ethnic Composition

- American Indian: .5%
- Asian: 2.3%
- Pacific Islander: .2%
- Asian Pacific Islander: .25%
- Black/African American: 1%
- Hispanic: 7.4%
- Two or more races: 8.2%
- White: 80.5%

(Totals will not equal 100%)

Academic Focus

We continually strive to make our academic program a relevant, rigorous, and engaging experience for each student. It is not easy to meet the individual needs of students, but our staff members are committed to doing so each day. Through our careful planning, continual learning, and collaborative efforts, we work to strive for individual success for each student at Highland. We continue to make changes to our structures and practices in order to better serve them. We understand that each day is the most important day in the life of our children, and strive to utilize each hour of our school day accordingly. Currently, we are focused on making the shift from our Washington State Learning Standards to the Common Core State Standards, which our students will be assessed upon beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

Accomplishments

We have much to celebrate at Highland Elementary. We are proud of our students and their accomplishments as they continue to make wonderful academic and leadership gains measured by various building, district and state assessments. Our instructional team made up of our amazingly talented and committed certificated teachers and para-professionals, in cooperation with our parents and countless high school and community volunteers continue to find ways to reach students and ensure their success.

We are one of a handful of schools in the State of Washington and beyond who are designated as a Leader in Me School. Our school community utilizes the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Kids to both model and teach our students the 21st century skills we feel they will need in order to compete in an ever-changing, global society. Our staff members continually look for opportunities to provide students with experiences that will allow them to discover and cultivate their leadership qualities and skills. Students learn how to be in charge of themselves and their learning, meet and greet guests, talk in front of small and large group settings, set goals and work to deliberately accomplish their goals throughout the school year, put first things first by working first and then playing, or synergizing together by working with others effectively toward a common goal. These are just a few of the skills that we are committed to teach our students over the course of a school year, or a school career here at Highland. Over time, students learn to develop a skillset that will serve them well for years to come.

How You Can Help

Partner with us in your child’s education journey. Here are some easy ways for you to support your child’s learning.

- Take 20 minutes each night to read with your child.
- Learn the 7 Habits, discuss and ask questions about them at home with your children. Be a model and use the 7 Habits in your own lives. As a family unit, develop a family mission statement.
- Reinforce to your student how learning is a process. Just because they don’t “get” something the first time, does not mean they won’t the second or third try. Expect to have to work at it. On the flip side, just because a concept is easy at first, does not mean the next one will be. “Smart” is relative. Perseverance and an ability to stay with a problem is much more important for long-term success.
- Attend Curriculum Night and parent conferences. Become a PTA member—even if you can’t attend meetings, the financial contribution supports your child’s school directly.
- Ask questions! Find out from your student’s teacher how you can best work with your child to improve his or her skills in specific areas.
- Become trained as a reading tutor and provide 1:1 and small group assistance to your student’s teacher how you can best work with your child to improve his or her skills in specific areas.

Volunteer at school if your schedule allows! Call us at 425-335-1585 and learn about our volunteer opportunities. We had more than 250 volunteers help us last year!
About our Staff

Highland has 35 certificated teachers and support professionals assisted by 21 paraprofessionals and support staff, guided by one school principal. Additionally, all district buildings are supported by custodial staff, grounds, maintenance, and technology personnel. On average, Highland teachers have more than 15 years of teaching experience, and more than 77 percent have master’s degrees. All Highland teachers and paraprofessionals meet the highly qualified designation as outlined by the federal No Child Left Behind law.

About Our School Building

Highland was built in 1998 and opened for students in the fall of 1999. It is the district’s only two-story elementary school and is located on nine acres of property which is one block from Lake Stevens High School. There are 678 students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. Its playfield includes a covered play area, softball field and soccer field that are used by high school students and community members. It has 26 classrooms, six instructional pods located in wide hallways, a library, music rooms, a regulation sized basketball gymnasium with hardwood floors and a separate cafeteria with a stage area. Currently there are five portable classrooms on site. The practical capacity for the building is 619 students. The total building size is 50,000 square feet.

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. Approximately 84.5 percent of the expenditures are used for 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 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-S 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.

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<th>Grade Level</th>
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<th>District</th>
<th>State</th>
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<td>Science</td>
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Highland Elementary Contact Information:

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