



# Lake Washington School District School Annual Report

Each student will graduate prepared to lead a rewarding, responsible life as a contributing member of our community and greater society.

## Explorer Community School

7040 – 208th N.E., Redmond, WA 98053 (425) 836-6650

### School Mission

Our mission is to create a learning partnership among children, teachers, and parents.

### Mascot: Eagle

Colors: Blue and Gray

Website: [www.lwsd.org/explorer](http://www.lwsd.org/explorer)

### Ellen Challenger, Principal

Explorer Community School is a choice elementary school in the Lake Washington School district housed on the campus of Emily Dickinson Elementary School.

We serve 70 students grades 1-6 in three multi age classrooms. Although it operates independently, Explorer is part of the larger Dickinson community. Explorer staff members attend Dickinson staff meetings, professional development, grade level team meetings, school work teams and committees. Explorer students have the same opportunity as Dickinson students for our chess program, PE, music, library, and computer lab. They also have lunch and recess with Dickinson students. In addition, Explorer students participate in the same after school enrichment programs as Dickinson students including choir, percussion ensemble, school plays and clubs. Explorer and Dickinson have a collaborative partnership that benefits all students and staff.

Explorer's learning community provides an enriched curriculum that inspires life long learners. Explorer strives to provide a hands-on, interactive approach to learning. This approach ensures a strong foundation to basic skills through inquiry and collaborative learning. The curriculum includes a commitment to the arts and environmental education. Field trips, community service and outside resources are an integral part of the Explorer experience.

## Year in Review – 2007-2008

### School Improvement Plan

Explorer Community School collaborates with Dickinson Elementary School in developing and implementing a school improvement plan. Goals for 2007-2008 included increasing scores in writing and science. Due to a small sample size (10-13 students at each grade) data from year to year is problematic. Our results in science were extremely positive but in writing scores went down. As a school, we look at trend data over time and work to improve individual performances. Our school leadership model includes teachers who serve on work teams, act as teacher leaders and provide mentorship to new staff members. Explorer and Dickinson teachers form a partnership and a true community of learners.

### I-728

Initiative 728 was designed to improve public education and lead to higher academic achievement for all students. This funding is critical to help kids get off to a good start as well as to support those who are struggling. In this sixth year of I-728 funding, Lake Washington School District (LWSD) continued to focus on four areas:

The early childhood program, which funds preschool classrooms staffed by highly trained teachers, so more children come to school prepared to learn.

Kindergarten and first-grade class sizes, which are kept at an average of 19 so children get more teacher attention in those critical early years.

Summer and school-year programs to work with students who are struggling to meet academic standards.

The award-winning New Teacher Support Program, which helps new teachers succeed from the start, and additional professional development so teachers are always finding more ways to help students learn.

### No Child Left Behind Report

The "No Child Left Behind" Act of 2001 (NCLB) outlines requirements that K-12 schools must meet. LWSD met the standard for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 49 of 59 subgroups under NCLB. In most of the 49 areas, students scored significantly above the requirements. The areas of concern for the district include special education, Hispanic students and low-income students. No school district in the state of Washington with over 10,000 students made AYP, including this district. This school did make AYP for this year. NCLB requires all public schools and school districts to publish "report cards" that contain specific information highlighting their schools' progress, including the results of the Washington Assessment of Learning (WASL). Visit <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us> to view this data plus the WASL scores broken out by eight subgroups.

# Explorer Community School – Assessment

## Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)

	Reading		Mathematics		Writing		Science	
	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08	06-07	07-08
<b>3rd Grade</b>	70	92	70	92	*	*	*	*
District	83	86	83	84	*	*	*	*
State	71	70	69	68	*	*	*	*
<b>4th Grade</b>	83	77	83	23	83	39	*	*
District	88	85	80	70	82	82	*	*
State	76	72	58	53	60	62	*	*
<b>5th Grade</b>	85	100	92	91	*	*	77	91
District	83	89	78	81	*	*	60	72
State	72	75	59	61	*	*	36	43
<b>6th Grade</b>	75	82	58	73	*	*	*	*
District	81	82	72	71	*	*	*	*
State	68	69	50	49	*	*	*	*

The WASL is a standards-based test that measures how well students apply knowledge and skills in reading, mathematics, writing, and science. Scores represent percentage of students at standard in each area.  
 \* not tested | 3rd Grade does not test Writing and Science, 4th Grade does not test Science, 5th Grade does not test Writing, 6th Grade does not test Writing and Science

## District Budget Summary

### District Per Pupil Expenditure

\$8,671 per pupil including I-728

### General Fund Budget

\$201.1 million

### Direct Classroom Support 80.3%

- Teachers
- Instructional Assistants
- Teaching Supplies
- Counselors
- Staff Training
- Curriculum Development
- Librarians
- Special Education
- School Building:  
Utilities, Maintenance, Insurance

### Indirect Classroom Support 14.2%

- Building Administrators
- School Support/Secretaries
- Transportation
- Food Services
- Student Activities/Athletics

### Administration 4.5%

- Board, Superintendent
- Central Office Administrators
- Human Resources, Public Information, Payroll, Accounting
- Technology Support
- Administration Buildings:  
Utilities, Maintenance, Insurance

### Other Programs 1.0%

## School Use/Parents and Community

### School Use

Our school facilities are available for public use by contacting our school office.

### Parents and the Community

We encourage you to get involved in our school and in PTSA. Volunteers are trained and work in a variety of positions. To get involved, call our school office.

## School Snapshot

### Building Budget

\$16,859

### Student Composition

Asian	2.9%
African American	0.0%
Hispanic	0.0%
Native American	0.0%
Caucasian	91.3%
Pacific Islander	0.0%
Special Ed	13.0%
ELL	0.0%
Free/Reduced Lunch	1.9%
Male/Female	51/49%

### School Enrollment

October 2006	71
October 2007	69

### Staff Education Achievement

Bachelor's	0
Bachelor's + 45 credits	0
Bachelor's + 90 credits	1
Bachelor's + 135 credits	0
Master's	0
Master's +45 credits	1

### Student Attendance

Attendance	95.2%
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### Capital Projects Levy Activities

Facilities: No facilities projects.

**Technology:** Computer allocations were maintained at the district standard. New equipment continued to replace old on a standardized basis. Interactive whiteboards and projection systems have been installed in every classroom. Training continued on integrating technology into subject areas and using technology to increase student engagement. Software enhancements, network upgrades and new technologies to support student learning were available.

### Use of Maintenance and Operations Levy

Assist schools in helping all students reach academic standards; offer ongoing teacher training; purchase textbooks and classroom materials; provide additional staff for instruction and supervision; and support extracurricular athletics and activities.