



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.

Northstar Junior High

11822 N.E. 75th, Kirkland, WA 98033 (425) 828-3360

School Mission

To meet student learning objectives in an atmosphere that focuses on academic excellence, character, and creativity.

Mascot: Penguin

Colors: Blue and Silver

Website: www.lwsd.org/nsjh

Nell Ballard-Jones, Principal

Northstar Junior High School began in 1981 as one of Lake Washington's first choice schools. Northstar has four full-time teachers and a student body of 90, with 30 students per grade level. At Northstar, we believe students learn best in a small, caring community where individual talents can be recognized and nurtured, academic growth encouraged, and moral development fostered.

Located on the campus of Lake Washington High School, Northstar emphasizes academic excellence, personal responsibility, and creativity. Experienced teachers work as a team to lead multi-age, theme-based classes. Northstar allows capable students to take high-school courses on a space available basis in the areas of foreign language, high-level math and music. We foster the unique aspects of each student and appreciate individual differences. Students are encouraged to connect to people in their community through service learning.

At Northstar, the foundation is being set for every student's development. Parents participate by working cooperatively with teachers to sustain a cohesive learning community, provide enriching experiences and promote the love of learning. Students develop the positive perceptions of self, school, and life that are the foundation for continued success. It is a great place to work and learn.

Year in Review – 2007-2008

School Improvement Plan

With approximately 30 students taking the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in both seventh and eighth grade, individual performances are magnified in school averages. This small number can result in large fluctuations from year to year. In all tested areas, our students have consistently scored at or above district and state expectations. Last year, eighth grade science scores improved dramatically - 65% of our students reached Level 4 scores, up from only 27% in 2006-2007. Although there was a slight dip in our seventh grade scores, 88.5% of them passed all three areas in which they were tested (Reading, Writing, and Math), up more than 25% from the previous year. Additionally, the numbers of ninth graders who choose to take the 10th grade WASL continues to grow and the vast majority of them passed the attempted sections. Although such scores are cause for celebration, our focus continues to be on cohort data, or data from a specific class of students from year to year, which provides a clearer picture of how individual students are progressing. Because of Northstar's small learning environment, we are able to use WASL strand (comparing seventh graders from year to year) and cohort data (comparing how this year's eighth graders did to how they did as seventh graders) to support each student in their particular areas of strength and challenge in a real and tangible way. We do so by creating coursework and enrichment activities designed with individuals in mind.

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.

Northstar Junior High – 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
7th Grade	96	86	92	81	96	89	*	*
District	85	78	76	72	85	87	*	*
State	69	63	54	50	68	70	*	*
8th Grade	77	92	74	96	*	*	77	89
District	80	78	71	76	*	*	70	73
State	65	66	50	52	*	*	45	48

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.

n/a | not tested for WASL in these years

* not tested | 7th Grade does not test Science, 8th Grade does not test Writing

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

\$31,656

Student Composition

Asian	8.89%
African American	1.11%
Hispanic	2.22%
Native American	0.0%
Caucasian	87.78%
Pacific Islander	0.0%
Special Ed	10.00%
ELL	0.0%
Free/Reduced Lunch	9.38%
Male/Female	54/46%

School Enrollment

October 2006	89
October 2007	90

Staff Education Achievement

Bachelor's	0
Bachelor's + 45 credits	0
Bachelor's + 90 credits	1
Bachelor's + 135 credits	0
Master's	1
Master's +45 credits	2

Student Attendance

Attendance	95.4%
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Capital Projects Levy Activities

Facilities: Moved portables in preparation for school modernization project.

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.