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workplace • Prepared for personal success*



# Annual Report 2009-2010

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# District at a Glance

## By the Numbers:

- **24,178** students received instruction from 1,485 classroom teachers.
- **40** teachers achieved National Board Certification in 2009, the highest professional certification a teacher can obtain.
- **141** teachers now have National Board Certification.
- **3.2** million square feet of building space.
- **104** community volunteers provided 1,539 hours of mentoring and/or tutoring to district students in 26 schools through the LINKS (Looking Into the Needs of Kids and Schools) program.
- **93.3%** on-time graduation rate from the four comprehensive high schools.
- **9,205** students ride Metro and school buses each day, over 1,506,846 miles per year.
- **\$83,600** donated by district staff to United Way, to help our community.
- **21** students named National Merit Semifinalists.
- **27** schools actively compost their food waste.
- **\$263,000** saved in trash hauling fees over 2008-09 thanks to increased recycling and food composting by district staff and students, which reduced trash volume by 21%
- **4,474,654** kilowatt hours of electricity saved over 2008-09, or about 14.4%



Dr. Chip Kimball  
Superintendent



Ravi Shahani  
School Board Vice  
President, Dist. 5  
11/03-11/11\*



Doug Eglington  
School Board, Dist. 4  
2/89-11/13\*



Jackie Pendergrass  
School Board  
President, Dist. 1  
11/95-11/11\*



Nancy Bernard  
School Board, Dist. 3  
11/97-11/13\*



Christopher Carlson  
School Board, Dist. 2  
11/07-11/11\*

\*Date first appointed or  
elected to date current  
term ends.

# Year in Review

**Looking back at 09-10** reveals a theme that resonates in the classrooms and in district operations as well – doing more with less. After a significant community-influenced budgeting process in the spring of 2009, the 09-10 school year began with implementation of budget cuts and higher fees that protected district classrooms from losing teachers.

The loss of \$7.8 million in the district's budget was felt in many ways last fall. Bus service cuts meant fewer bus stops. Many students had to walk farther to catch the bus. Athletic fees rose far higher than ever, though PTAs and booster clubs made impressive fundraising efforts that helped many students pay their fees. The district's central office lost 20 percent of its administrators. Budgets for schools and the central office all received cuts.

Despite these significant cuts, school opened in the fall of 2009 with the same average class sizes and no teacher layoffs. In light of the significant loss of funds, that's a fact our school district and community can be proud of.

## Doing More

Despite those cuts, progress was made, in learning, in programs and in processes. The district also continued to plan for the change to four-year high schools in the fall of 2012.

Teachers completed a technology training program, learning best practices in creating lessons for use on the interactive whiteboards that have been installed in every classroom. Over 4,070 lessons and resources were posted to a resource sharing site.

A new elementary math curriculum was selected after two years of research, parent input and piloting. The enVisionMATH curriculum was approved by the Board in June.

**Dr. Chip Kimball, superintendent, was named one of the top ten superintendents from around the country who best exemplify outstanding leadership in the use of technology to further educational goals. The ten 2010 eSchool News Tech-Savvy Superintendents were recognized at a luncheon in February.**



## Awards & Achievements

# District at a Glance

## Students:

- Male – **51.8%**
- Female – **48.2%**
- American Indian – **0.5%**
- Asian – **16.6%**
- Black – **2.4%**
- Hispanic – **7.3%**
- Pacific Islander – **0.3%**
- White – **68.5%**

## Staff:

- Number of classroom teachers: **1,485**
- Average years of teaching experience: **12.9**
- Teachers with at least a Masters Degree: **62.6%**

## Schools:

- Number of schools: **50**
- Enrollment: **24,178**
- Free or reduced price meals: **13.9%**
- Special Education: **12.3%**
- Transitional bilingual: **4.9%**
- Unexcused absence: **0.1%**
- Annual drop-out rate (09-10): **2.6%**
- On-time graduation rate (09-10): **90.2%**
- Extended graduation rate: (09-10): **96.5%**

The NEA Foundation presented Mike Town, an environmental science teacher at Redmond High School, with its inaugural Green Prize in Public Education, which includes a \$25,000 award. Town was selected to receive this honor for his Cool School Challenge program and curriculum that has helped students, teachers, and school districts reduce more than 1.5 million pounds of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions in over 150 schools.

## Awards & Achievements

# Year in Review

Elementary teachers immediately began learning the new curriculum to implement it in the fall.

Juanita High School was approved as a Cambridge International site, allowing the school to complete plans to bring this internationally recognized, rigorous academic program to Juanita in the fall of 2010.

## Community support

Two district levies were up for renewal in February 2010 – the educational programs and operations levy and the capital projects levy, which pays for technology purchases and building improvements or major repairs. Replacement levies were placed on the February ballot and both passed.

In addition, the district proposed a \$234 million bond measure. It would have expanded classroom space at Redmond and Eastlake High Schools, provided a new space for expansion of Environmental and Adventure School, added elementary school space and modernized Juanita High School ahead of schedule. This bond did not pass: post election surveys showed that concern over the economy was a barrier to the passage of this large a measure. As a result, after additional community input, a significantly smaller measure has been proposed for the February 8, 2011, ballot to address overcrowding in the district.

The district receives considerable support from nonprofit organizations. This year was no different. The list of donations over \$1000 approved by the school board each month shows the variety of organizations providing assistance to district schools, led by the PTSA and the Lake Washington Schools Foundation. This year, the total amount of donations approved by the board topped \$1 million.

Susan O'Malley, the lead teacher at Explorer Community School, was one of seven individuals and three programs in Washington state honored with a KCTS 9 Golden Apple Award for 2009. Each winner received a "Golden Apple" statuette. The winners were featured in a prime-time broadcast on public television stations statewide in February 2010.



## Awards & Achievements

# Year in Review



## Recognition

This year was particularly gratifying in recognition of how well the district is performing despite the kinds of challenges faced in 2009-10. Two national magazines agreed. Business Week ranked Redmond the top place in Washington to raise a family, citing its excellent schools as one reason. Forbes Magazine, on the other hand, cited Sammamish as one of the best places for the bang for your housing buck, also noting the excellent schools.

The inaugural Washington Achievement Awards from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction presented more Washington Achievement Awards, 14 total, to Lake Washington Schools than to any other district in the state. Ten district schools were cited for overall excellence.

Dr. Chip Kimball, superintendent, was recognized nationally as one of the nation's top educators for technology vision and leadership. He was named one of the ten 2010 eSchool News Tech-Savvy Superintendents.

## Looking Forward

While 2009-10 was a challenging year, the good news in the spring was that federal stimulus money forestalled any further large cuts to the district budget. The budget remains largely unchanged for 2010-11.

The growing student population in Lake Washington will provide further challenges for the future, particularly as the bond did not pass so there are no funds to expand schools to accommodate those additional students. The recession continues to impact state revenues, so further budget cuts are likely to hit the district in future years.



Alcott Elementary School and Rush Elementary School were two of the 104 schools from around the state honored by Phi Delta Kappa Washington and the Center for Educational Effectiveness at the "Schools of Distinction" Luncheon in September 2009. At this luncheon, schools that were among the top five percent highest improving schools in student achievement in Washington state were honored as "Great Schools."

## Awards & Achievements

# Teaching & Learning

Last fall, the class of 2020 entered second grade. That class of students is the touchstone for the district's Vision 2020, the strategic initiative designed to transform our school system, ensuring that every student is prepared for the future. Vision 2020 is focused on three prongs, based on educational research about what works in schools. Those three areas are:

- effective teaching;
- standards-based teaching, assessing and reporting systems;
- continuous improvement processes focused on results

The district as a whole made progress in each area this year. Here are a few of the efforts from a district level. Each school has its own Continuous Improvement Process that operates year-round, with staff involvement to ensure that goals are set and results evaluated.

## New Elementary Curricula

With regard to effective teaching, efforts focused on high expectations and quality instruction, with a continued focus on the instructional core. Math, of course, is one of those core subjects. A 43-member committee, including elementary math teachers representing all schools around the district, completed their two-year process to make a recommendation on a new elementary math curriculum. This process involved a careful review of state standards and how each curriculum aligned with the standards.

Parents weighed in on four finalist curricula that best matched the district's needs. The committee used an evidence-based approach to form a professional judg-



Forty teachers in the Lake Washington School District achieved National Board Certification®, as announced by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in December 2009. Teachers earn this prestigious credential through a rigorous assessment that generally takes a year or more to complete. It requires these teachers to demonstrate how their work improves student achievement. It is considered the highest professional certification a teacher can obtain.

## Awards & Achievements

# Teaching & Learning



ment about the two finalist programs to pilot. The evidence included several filters that were applied to the four programs, including:

- Strands of mathematical proficiency scoring protocol for program balance
- Organization and design scoring protocol
- Math standards alignment score
- Digital resources scoring protocol
- Parent survey input
- Results of state reports and recommendations

The two final curricula were piloted in nearly every elementary school in the spring of 2010. Curriculum Director Matt Manobianco noted, “When it came down to the final decision, enVision Math was a better fit in helping students also learn the kind of problem-solving and thinking skills called for in our district’s student profile.” Manobianco noted that the committee rated enVision Math higher on its balance of computational, conceptual and problem-solving skills. They felt the organization and design of the materials were clear and easy to use for teachers, students and parents. EnVision Math also offers online activities and resources available to students from home.

The committee’s selection was endorsed by the Instructional Materials Committee and approved by the district’s Board of Directors in June. Teacher training in the new curriculum began immediately and continued through the summer.

While the math curriculum was selected last year, a new social studies curriculum was implemented. This curriculum included materials from different publishers depending on the grade level. The primary sources included TCI’s “Social Studies Alive!” series and specific books from StoryPath.



**Ninety district students were selected for the All-State honor music ensembles. Sixty high school students were selected for All-State music ensembles, and 30 were selected as Junior All-State music ensemble members. These students travelled to Spokane in February for three intensive days of rehearsal with several hundred of the finest students studying music in the Pacific Northwest.**

## Awards & Achievements

# Teaching & Learning

## Effective Teaching

The need for effective teaching begins from the first day a new teacher steps into the classroom. The district has continued to support its award-winning New Teacher Support Program, which provides brand new teachers with coaching from dedicated mentors through their first year in the classroom. Coaching in their second year has been less available. For 2009-10, a grant from the state enabled more work with these second year teachers, building on the work done in the first year.

## Assessing and Reporting

Most people think of tests as something that comes at the end of a course, to determine how well a student learned the material. In fact, tests, or assessments, can be used at the beginning of a course to help a teacher understand how much students know already and in the middle to check whether they are learning the material. These assessments help the teacher adjust their lessons to meet each student where they are in their learning.

If these assessments are tied to a standard, each student and their parents will know by the end of the course whether a student has learned what they need to learn to be prepared for the next level. These standards are all tied to the district's Student Profile. If students meet the standards in each subject at each grade along the way, they will graduate prepared for college, the global workplace and personal success.

In 2009-10, elementary teachers were trained in and moved to an online standards-based grade book. These efforts prepared schools for rolling out access to the online



**Sam Keller, a senior at Redmond High School, was one of five students in the state of Washington and one of only 91 in the nation, to achieve a perfect score (36) on the ACT.**

## Awards & Achievements

# Teaching & Learning



grade book in 2010-11. The use of this standards-based grading system also ensures that parents understand where a student is doing well and where they still need work.

In 2009-10, teachers and students practiced having students set goals for their own learning. This practice prepared both students and teachers for student-involved conferences in 2010-11. These conferences replace parent-teacher conferences, where just parents and teachers discuss the student's progress. The new system takes part of that meeting for students to be involved in setting goals for their learning and sharing those goals with parents. This system not only gets students thinking about what they need to do in school but helps parents understand how they can best support their student.

## Microsoft Math Partnership Makes a Difference

The Microsoft Math Partnership completed its third year at three junior high schools (Finn Hill, Rose Hill and Evergreen Junior Highs). Thanks to a grant from Microsoft, math teacher teams worked together to refine their instruction so that more students reach standard in math. Together, math teachers looked closely at their students' work to determine what those students are able to do as a result of specific instruction. This work helped teachers reflect on, analyze and adjust their own teaching practices. Teachers observed each other's lessons. They monitored how their teaching practice affects student performance.

Working with the part-time math coach in each school, these math teams spent time analyzing student work to review what it means to be at standard and to plan instructional interventions for students who are not at standard.

**Two students from Eastlake High School, Akaash Nanda and Shara-da Rayan, received the Seattle Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Award for 2010. This award, sponsored by Seattle Center and the city of Seattle, recognizes and celebrates outstanding young people and youth organizations that promote community, peace, leadership, justice and civil rights in the spirit of the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

## Awards & Achievements

# Teaching & Learning

Family math nights at school engaged students and parents alike in playing math games that help students practice mathematical thinking.

## Planning for Four-Year High Schools

In February, 2009, Dr. Kimball announced the district's plan to move to four-year high schools. This change in grade configuration is based on academic needs. Lake Washington is one of the few remaining school districts in Washington with a three-year high school model, grades 10-12. The district will move to a grades K-5 for elementary school, grades 6-8 for middle school and grades 9-12 for high school system in the fall of 2012.

In 2009-10, planning began for the work that must be completed for a successful transition to the four-year high school system. Last year's work included determining the scope of the planning project, ensuring that all aspects of this transition are reviewed. The goal is as seamless a transition as possible.

Planning includes academic and operational aspects. For example, a major change will be moving from a junior high school model to a middle school model. That means operating the grades 6-8 school as a transition between elementary school and high school.

While much of the work in 2009-10 was preliminary, it laid important foundations for work that will continue through the fall of 2012.



Twenty-one Lake Washington School District students were selected as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition. As finalists, these students qualified to receive National Merit Scholarships, including \$2500 awards, corporate-sponsored scholarships or college-sponsored scholarships. About 15,000 students nationally were named finalists in this competition.

## Awards & Achievements

# Academic Performance



## What is “New” with State Assessments?

The watchword for state testing this year was “new.” The WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) was out: the new tests were the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) for grades three through eight and the High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) for 10th grade. The math MSP was not only a new test but it also assessed new learning standards.

In implementing this new test, the state intends to move to online administration of the test, which will allow for faster scoring and eventually faster return of the results to schools and parents. Districts were offered the opportunity to pilot the computer-based test and Lake Washington jumped on board. LWSD led the state in the breadth of our involvement, with most sixth, seventh and eighth grade students in our district taking at least one MSP subject area test online. This experience with the online test will be valuable to students and teachers as the state test moves online.

For the HSPE tests and the MSP tests in reading, writing and science, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction characterizes the new tests as comparable because they assessed the same learning standards as the WASL and have the same reliability and validity. Lake Washington’s scores tended to parallel changes in the state scores, rising when the state scores rose and falling when they fell.

**Two students from Kirkland Junior High, Connor Bergren and Matthew Mihara, auditioned and were accepted into the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Youth Honor Choir. They both performed at the Northwest Region American Choral Directors Association conference in Seattle in March.**

## Awards & Achievements

# Academic Performance

The difference between district scores and state scores stayed within the range set over the last four years for all reading, writing and science tests. The two exceptions were fourth grade reading and 10th grade science and, in both cases, district students did better. In 4th grade reading, district scores fell less than the state did: from 87 percent to 84 percent district-wide and from 74 percent to 67 percent statewide. For 10th grade science, the district's scores improved even more than the state scores, from 60 percent to 71 percent district-wide and from 39 percent to 44 percent statewide.

Because the math test was different this year, test scores essentially reset and cannot be compared to past scores. However, the comparison between district and state scores provides information that will be reviewed for improvement.

## 2008 and 2009 WASL Scores, 2010 MSP/HSPE Scores

Grade Level	Reading			Math			Writing			Science		
	2008 WASL	2009 WASL	2010 MSP/HSPE	2008 WASL	2009 WASL	2010 MSP/HSPE	2008 WASL	2009 WASL	2010 MSP/HSPE	2008 WASL	2009 WASL	2010 MSP/HSPE
<b>3rd - LWSD</b>	86	86	88	84	82	73	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>3rd - State</b>	71	71	72	69	66	62	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>4th - LWSD</b>	85	87	84	70	74	72	82	80	80	*	*	*
<b>4th - State</b>	73	74	67	54	52	54	62	60	61	*	*	*
<b>5th - LWSD</b>	89	89	86	81	80	71	*	*	*	72	69	58
<b>5th - State</b>	76	74	70	61	62	54	*	*	*	43	45	34
<b>6th - LWSD</b>	82	86	80	70	76	71	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>6th - State</b>	69	72	65	49	51	52	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>7th - LWSD</b>	78	75	81	72	74	78	87	82	86	*	*	*
<b>7th - State</b>	63	59	63	50	52	55	70	70	70	*	*	*
<b>8th - LWSD</b>	78	83	82	76	73	61	*	*	*	74	76	78
<b>8th - State</b>	66	68	69	52	51	52	*	*	*	48	51	54
<b>10th - LWSD</b>	91	90	91	72	69	66	94	94	93	62	60	71
<b>10th - State</b>	82	81	79	50	45	42	87	87	86	40	39	45

\*Subject not tested at this grade.

# Academic Performance

## SAT Scores

District students continue to outperform students around the state on the two primary standardized tests used for college admissions. District SAT scores by subject increased in the reading and writing tests while dropping one point in mathematics. Over the last five years, average SAT scores in Washington and nationally have fallen or remained the same. At the same time, Lake Washington's average scores have increased 11 points in math, 13 points in critical reading and 14 points in writing, on average.

SAT Scores	Critical Reading			Mathematics			Writing		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
<b>LWSD</b>	555	559	560	570	574	573	545	551	555
<b>State</b>	526	524	524	533	531	532	509	507	508
<b>National</b>	502	501	501	515	515	516	494	493	492

## ACT Scores

While national mean scores for college-bound students fell slightly this year, district students scored higher on three of the four ACT tests (English, Reading and Science) and improved their average composite score. In addition, Lake Washington students continue to show significantly greater college readiness than state and national averages. Lake Washington students who take the ACT continue to be more likely to meet college readiness standards than other students in Washington state or in the U.S. In fact, more than half (51 percent) of Lake Washington students taking the ACT in 2010 met all four college readiness benchmarks, compared to 36 percent of students in Washington state and 24 percent of students nationwide.

ACT Composite Scores	2008	2009	2010
<b>LWSD</b>	24.9	25.1	25.3
<b>State</b>	23.1	22.8	23.0
<b>National</b>	21.1	21.1	21.0

# Academic Performance

## AP Tests

Advanced Placement (AP) is a nationwide program that is designed to prepare secondary school students for higher education. AP classes provide rigorous, college-level curriculum in various subjects and the opportunity to earn college credits or advanced college standing. The AP program is made possible by the close cooperation of secondary schools, colleges and the College Board.

AP classes are open to all high school students in the district. Courses vary from school to school. Availability of courses is based on student interest and enrollment at each school.

Over the past three years, more students have taken AP exams. In fact, nearly 500 more tests were taken during the 2009-10 school year than in the 2007-08 school year. The pass rate has remained fairly consistent, with 78-80 percent of students passing their exams (receiving a score of 3, 4, or 5). Students who meet performance standards on AP exams are eligible to receive college credit. AP exam scores are sent to the colleges of the student's choice. Colleges determine if credit or advanced standing is granted based on their institutional policies. Thousands of universities worldwide recognize AP achievements and grant credit. Many colleges grant sophomore standing to students who have demonstrated their competence in three or more AP exams.



Advanced Placement	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
# of Exams Given	2,060	2,406	2,555
Pass %	80%	78%	80%

Sandy Hargraves, a math teacher at Redmond High School (RHS) was selected as a winner of the Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished High School Mathematics Teaching, as announced by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). Sandy is one of 22 teachers selected from high schools in the United States and Canada for this international recognition. The Edyth May Sliffe Award program is designed to recognize and reward outstanding teachers for their efforts in the development of mathematical talents of high school students.

## Awards & Achievements

# Technology

## Front Row Audio systems expanded to every classroom

During the 2009-10 school year, the district completed the installation of FrontRow Audio Systems in all classrooms. This system uses multiple speakers and a wireless microphone for teachers, and helps to project the teacher's voice throughout the classroom. This system makes it easier for all students in the classroom to hear the teacher – no matter where they sit. The basic concept behind the FrontRow Audio System is that if students can hear, they will learn better. Research has shown that these systems improve student performance and learning by replacing the traditional intervention used by teachers – moving students who are struggling to the front row of the classroom. Now, each student can hear the teacher equally well from the front or the back of the classroom.

The FrontRow audio system is one part of the ActivClassroom that the district has been installing in all classrooms. The system was rolled out to classrooms beginning in the 2008-09 school year. The ActivClassroom includes the ActivBoard (an interactive digital white board), a projector, a document camera, and the FrontRow speaker and amplification system. This system is purchased with funds from the 2006 technology levy.

## Teachers focus on sharing curriculum and resources

In the past few years, teachers have received additional professional development on the use of their ActivBoards and ActivVote technology. During the 2009-10 school year, professional development was extended as teachers were able to create digital resources for the ActivBoard that could then be shared with other teachers. A great advantage of teachers sharing resources is that all of these materials are tied to the specific curricula being used in our schools. In addition, the materials have been tested in our classrooms with our students. This means that teachers should have a better success rate using these materials than they do when they research online to find resources to use in their classes. The focus is on collaboration and the best ways to use technology to support student learning.



# Technology

## Field-testing 1:1 computing

During the 2009-10 school year, LWSD began field-testing the use of netbooks in five elementary schools and two secondary schools. At the elementary level, grade-level teams worked to provide 1:1 (one computer to one student) netbook computers to students and tied their use to the curriculum. Sandburg Elementary second graders, Blackwell Elementary third graders, Thoreau Elementary fifth graders, Rockwell Elementary sixth graders and Franklin Elementary grade 5/6 Quest students took part in the pilot program. At the secondary level, students explored 1:1 computing in math classes at Juanita High School and in Language Arts/Social Studies classes at Inglewood Junior High as well as in the library. These programs were funded out of the previous technology levy passed in 2006. These field tests will be expanded for the 2010-11 school year to include every student at each of the above-mentioned elementary schools at a 3:1 ratio, as well as providing 1:1 for selected classrooms in two additional secondary schools and every seventh grade student at Rose Hill Junior High.

## Upgraded technology

In fall 2009, the technology department deployed 1500 new teaching stations (computers connected to ActivBoards) and retired 1,500 of the oldest machines in the district. In addition, the district upgraded its e-mail server to Exchange 2010 and virtualized over 60 percent of data center services (allowing them to run on a single large server instead of multiple smaller servers). This change saves power and consolidates support resources for the district.

Every great invention starts with a simple drawing. That was the premise around the 10,000 Rockets contest, sponsored by Artsonia and Bing. This educational program invited students to draw the rocket of tomorrow. The first 10,000 drawings submitted are published in the Mission: 10,000 Rockets book. Dickinson Elementary was one of eight schools randomly selected to receive a \$5,000 donation and 1/8 of the book proceeds. David Meisner's sixth grade class entered their drawings into the contest.



## Awards & Achievements

# Facilities

## New Schools Taking Shape

Since 1998, the district has been systematically working through a process of modernizing its buildings. Based on a review of the condition of all buildings, the district's schools were divided into four phases. During each eight-year phase, the buildings scheduled for modernization during that phase are examined in detail and a plan developed to update them to current district educational specifications. The cost of renovating the current building, including the cost of housing students elsewhere during the project, is compared to the cost of building a completely new building. Depending on the relative cost, a new building may be built or the old building may be renovated in part or as a whole.

A bond measure was passed in 1998 to pay for the first modernization phase. That phase was completed on time and on budget. In 2006, a second bond measure was passed for an additional set of schools after community input validated the scope of the work. Carson Elementary and Frost Elementary have been completed from this second phase. Updates for the modernization projects underway in LWSD during the 2009-10 school-year follow.

- **Robert Frost Elementary** construction was completed on time for a fall 2009 opening. The district and its architects for the project, Studio Meng Strazzara, won the Washington Chapter of the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI) "2010 Polished Apple Award." This honor is awarded to the owner and design team whose project best represents responsiveness, innovation, sustainable strategies, adaptability to future educational delivery changes, aesthetic design, and community enhancement.
- **Lake Washington High School's** construction is continuing on schedule for a fall 2011 opening. The gymnasium and athletic complex opened on time in May 2010.



*Frost Elementary School*

# Facilities

- **Finn Hill Junior High School and Environmental & Adventure School's** construction bid was within estimate and construction started in summer 2010. (The two schools share a campus.)
- **John Muir Elementary** design started February 2010. A site earthwork and grading construction contract was completed in September 2010.
- **Alexander Graham Bell Elementary** architect selection was completed May 2010. Site investigations have been completed and design commenced in fall 2010.
- **Helen Keller Elementary** architect selection was completed in April 2010. Site investigations and schematic design were completed over the summer. Design is progressing towards a summer 2011 construction start.
- **International Community School/Community School** architect selection was completed in May 2010 and site investigations and analysis completed. (The two schools share a campus.)
- **Rose Hill Junior High/Stella Schola Middle School** architect selection was completed in April 2010. Site investigations have been completed and design has started. (The two schools share a campus.)
- **Benjamin Rush Elementary** architect selection was completed May 2010, site investigations are completed and design commenced in fall 2010.
- **Carl Sandburg Elementary/Discovery Community School** architect selection was completed in April 2010. Site investigations and schematic design work were also completed over the summer of 2010. Design is progressing towards a summer 2011 construction start. (The two schools share a campus.)



*New Lake Washington High School  
Gymnasium*

# Facilities

## Capital Levy Projects

A capital levy passed in 2006 funded major maintenance projects that go beyond regular building maintenance such as cleaning. These major projects include upgrades to building systems and replacement to systems that have worn out. The list that follows shows the projects completed in 2009-10.

- **Alcott Elementary** - upgrade walkway and drainage at the portables
- **Einstein Elementary** – single portable classroom installation
- **Frost Elementary** - lighting upgrade, pathway upgrade
- **Juanita Elementary** - heat reduction at main office
- **Lakeview Elementary** - lighting upgrade
- **McAuliffe Elementary** - gym/commons floor
- **Rockwell Elementary** – double portable classroom installation, play shed repair
- **Rosa Parks Elementary** - double portable classroom - two installations, service gate improvement
- **Thoreau Elementary** - playfield improvements
- **Twain Elementary** - lighting upgrade
- **Wilder Elementary** - carpet and flooring upgrade, playfield improvements
- **Evergreen Jr.** - HVAC and controls upgrade, water heater upgrade, lighting upgrade
- **Inglewood Jr.** - HVAC and lighting upgrades, flooring upgrade



Lake Washington School District's efforts in spring 2009 to engage and communicate with the community around budget cuts won a Golden Achievement Award from the National School Public Relations Association. The Golden Achievement Award recognizes exemplary public relations activities, programs and projects. Overall, 56 Golden Achievement Awards were presented to school districts in the U.S. and Canada.

## Awards & Achievements

# Facilities

- **Kamiakin Jr.** - Exterior sealing and painting, gym pad upgrade
- **Kirkland Jr.** - Playfield improvements
- **Redmond Jr.** - Lighting upgrades, ADA access upgrade
- **BEST High** - portable painting
- **Eastlake High** - HVAC upgrades
- **Juanita High** - pool drain upgrade, Special Education transition room upgrade
- **Redmond High** - parking lot lighting upgrade, parking pathway upgrade



## Saving Resources, Saving Money

During the 2009-10 school year, the district surpassed its goal of saving \$450,000 in utility bills. Lake Washington saved 4,475,000 kWh of electricity, causing a 14.4 percent decline in electricity use from last year. About 33 percent of these savings are due to the unusually temperate winter, but the rest is due to continued help from staff in maximizing energy efficiency and a variety of capital projects completed in several schools. Natural gas consumption also decreased by 10 percent (about half of which was due to the mild winter). Total electricity used per square foot continues to decline. The district is now using 23 percent less electricity and five percent less natural gas per square foot than we did five years ago.

In addition to energy conservation, water consumption also declined by 16 percent this year, despite adding over 400 new students. Irrigation water consumption was down by 22 percent. Sewer costs were reduced by nearly 40 percent,



**Mark Sheeks**, a server administrator who works in the Lake Washington School District Resource Center, was named a 2010 Commute Champion by the Greater Redmond Transportation Management Association (GRTMA). Mark, who regularly bicycles to work, was nominated by several of his co-workers for this award for using commute alternatives.

## Awards & Achievements

# Facilities

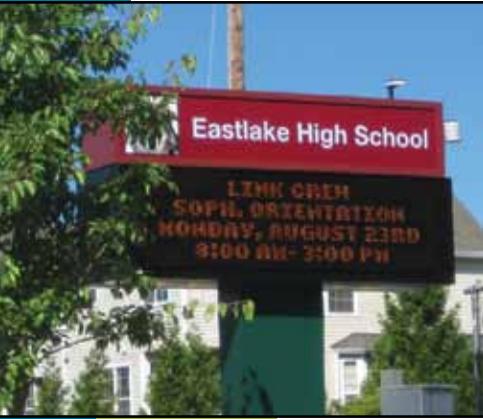
largely the result of the new sewer line installed at Wilder Elementary as of October 2009. This \$600,000 project is now saving the district nearly \$120,000 per year in sewage hauling fees (as well as getting sewer-pumping trucks out of the school's parking lot).

Lake Washington saved \$60,000 in trash costs last year as a result of more recycling and Styrofoam reduction. The district started another 11 recycling/composting and Styrofoam reduction programs last year. Where composting is free (in Kirkland and Redmond), all schools but one are participating. (Lake Washington High School will begin next fall with the opening of the new school.)

## Community Projects

Generous school and community groups make a significant difference to our district in many ways. One way is to partner with the district on facilities projects. By working together, the district and various groups can pool both financial resources and labor to benefit schools. During the 2009-10 school year, 58 community projects were completed in our schools. The value of donations and materials for these projects was approximately \$200,000. Here are some of the highlights:

- An electronic reader board was installed at the entrance to **Eastlake High School**. The purchase of this item was both community and school-funded and was installed after a change to city of Sammamish code.
- Fourteen different projects supported athletic programs and facilities, such as painting the press box at **Redmond High School**, installing a new scoreboard on the junior varsity softball field and new bleachers on the varsity softball field at **Eastlake High School**, and additional basketball and soccer goals at **Kirk Elementary**.



*Audubon Elementary picnic tables*

# Facilities

- Picnic tables were added to provide student seating and outdoor classroom space at **Audubon Elementary, Alcott Elementary** and **Rosa Parks Elementary**.
- Extensive gardening/landscaping projects were completed at **Dickinson Elementary, Kirk Elementary** and **Community School**.
- Playground equipment at **Blackwell Elementary, Community School** (in partnership with city of Kirkland), **Rockwell Elementary** and **Sandburg Elementary**.
- As a joint project with City of Redmond, a temporary outdoor sculpture was added outside of **Redmond Junior High** (to be in place until at least June 2011).
- Outstanding efforts by volunteer groups from Comcast, Microsoft and Overlake Community Church, who did some major grounds clean-up, painted portables, installed an outdoor bulletin board, painted maps on blacktops, and helped teachers with software training and classroom prep.

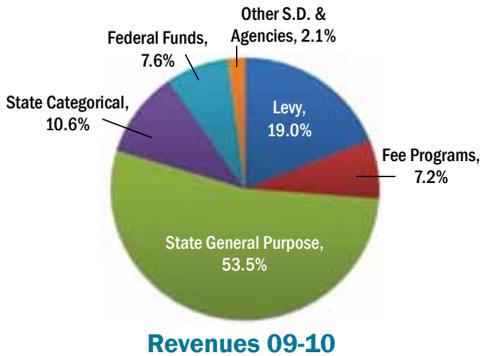


*Rockwell Elementary playground*

Lake Washington School District (LWSD) is one of 75 businesses/organizations to be named Best Workplace for Recycling and Waste Reduction by King County. Businesses and organizations throughout the county are invited to apply for this program each spring. Businesses are selected for having creatively and dramatically increased recycling and reduced waste. LWSD also received a 2009 Best Workplace for Recycling and Waste Reduction Award.

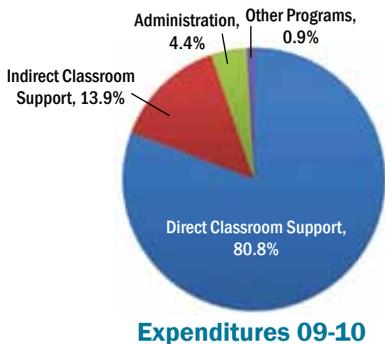
## Awards & Achievements

# Financial Information



The groundwork for the 2009-10 school year's finances was laid in the spring of 2009. Community budget meetings and surveys led the budget development efforts as the district faced a close to \$8 million operating budget cut. While the total amount of revenue is similar between 2009-10 and the previous year, a larger student population meant the dollar amount per student actually fell in 09-10 to \$9,180 per pupil from \$9,448 in 08-09.

What the district heard in the budget input sessions from parents, staff and community members was that maintaining lower class sizes was the most important budget priority. The advice was to increase fees where possible as a way to increase income. Cost savings in energy and transportation, across the board budget cuts and reductions in some staff at the central office also impacted the budget as a result of public input.



That meant that at the start of the 2009-10 school year, many students had to walk farther to get to the school bus. Families paid more for all day kindergarten and for athletic fees. Staff members turned off lights and electronics. But no teachers were laid off, unlike many other districts in the state.

The district's spending in 2009-10 reflected its philosophy to preserve spending in the classroom while maintaining a lean central administration. That philosophy was validated in the budget public input efforts in spring 2009. The result is that in 2009-10, the percent of district expenditures going to administration fell to 4.4% from 4.5% in 2008-09 while direct classroom support rose from 80.3% in 2008-09 to 80.8% last year.

Direct Classroom Support includes: teachers, instructional assistants; teaching supplies, materials and textbooks; counselors and librarians; special education and related services; staff development/curriculum development; and the costs of maintaining, cleaning, insuring, and providing technology support to school buildings.

Indirect Classroom Support includes: building administrators, school support costs (secretaries, office supplies), transportation, food services, student activities and athletics.

Administration includes: superintendent and central office; business and human resources; administrative buildings' utilities, maintenance and technology support.

Other Programs include: our community services programs.

**Oliver Hu, an eighth grade student at Kamiakin Junior High won a National PTA Reflections Award of Excellence in the Middle/Junior Musical Composition category for his piece, "Winter." Award of Excellence recipients receive a \$200 cash prize, a silver-plated Reflections medallion, a certificate and letter signed by the National PTA president, and recognition in the annual PTA Reflections online gallery.**

## Awards & Achievements

# Financial Information

Sources for district revenues shifted in 2009-10. The district received more state general operating funds because of the increase in student population. However, it received less money in state categorical funds, money that must be spent on a certain category of items. A major reason is that the state cut drastically the money from Initiative 728 student achievement funds. Fewer federal stimulus dollars came to the district in 2009-10 than in the previous year as well. Local levy dollars increased. Due to the decisions made in the budget process, fee income also increased.

The central office and schools continued to spend conservatively last year, anticipating that all I-728 funds will disappear from the state budget in 2010-11 and further state budget cuts may be on their way. That frugality resulted in a higher than expected ending fund balance, most of which is designated for use by a specific program or expense type in 2010-11.

The recession did have a positive impact on our modernization program. Bids for school construction came in lower than expected. In addition, the district took advantage of new types of bond issues related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to save about \$8.5 million in interest in its December 2009 bond sale over the life of the bonds as compared to the cost of the usual tax-exempt bonds.

All Funds 09-10	Beginning Fund Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Fund Balance
General	\$17,016,366	\$217,346,759	\$212,191,057	\$22,172,068
ASB	\$736,990	\$2,609,463	\$2,545,946	\$800,506
Debt	\$12,734,340	\$38,275,494	\$38,898,555	\$12,111,279
Capital	\$197,699,780	\$59,279,648	\$72,984,018	\$183,995,410
Transportation Vehicle Fund	\$1,180,538	\$1,361,496	\$373,368	\$2,168,666

The Redmond Arts Commission selected Redmond High School and Redmond Junior High Orchestra Director Paula Ferguson as one of two recipients of the 2010 Redmond Arts Award for her outstanding work in the arts. The award was presented on June 1 at Redmond City Hall.

## Awards & Achievements

# Parent/Community Connections



Keeping parents informed helps them support their student's learning. It helps parents keep their student(s) safe. Informed parents are more engaged in the school and broader community. Last year, the district introduced several new tools to help parents stay informed.

## Community Bulletin Board

Schools often serve as an information clearinghouse for families in their community. The district has long had a policy on advertising in the schools that allows nonprofit organizations to provide information to families.

In the past, these items traditionally were fliers or brochures in a packet put together by the school and/or volunteers, sent home with students. Now, however, many parents are interested in receiving such information electronically. Many schools have moved to an electronic school newsletter. Putting together the "kid mail" packet has increasingly been a burden on schools that no longer made sense.

As of September 2009, fliers are now posted on electronic bulletin boards on school websites and the district website. Nonprofit organizations can easily submit them electronically and select which schools' bulletin boards they should appear on. Schools provide information on how many paper copies they want: some schools still send home traditional packets while others have gone paperless.

The result? Information on community activities for kids is available 24/7. Less paper is used and nonprofits save money. Volunteers and staff members can work on other projects.

**Bryce Tigon, a third grader at Wilder Elementary, went to the 2010 Burt Lerner Elementary Chess Nationals in Atlanta in early May and came home a national champion. After winning all 12 of his speed chess games, Bryce was the only undefeated player in the K-3 Blitz Tournament. He first earned a national title at the 2009 U.S. Junior Scholastic Open in Milwaukee the previous summer.**

## Awards & Achievements

# Parent/Community Connections

## School Messenger

Sometimes the only timely way to get information to parents is through a phone call. In an emergency, the ability to call every parent in the district could make a big difference. Even when there is no emergency, a phone call to remind parents about important events or provide quick information can be very convenient.

Last year, Lake Washington School District contracted with School Messenger for automated telephone/e-mail/texting services. This service can be used for emergency and non-emergency purposes. The plan is to use it to contact parents when school is closed due to snow: an unusually warm winter meant that service wasn't used for snow day calls until November 2010.

Schools have used the system to welcome families to the new school year. Other messages let parents know about events that have been cancelled or events that are coming up. The system is used by many schools for attendance notification. The food services department uses it to alert parents when their student's lunch account balance is low.

## Connections newsletter

Repeated district budget cuts have reduced the district's printed and mailed parent newsletter to a twice a year item. It's just not possible to provide parents with timely information when the communication is that infrequent. A monthly e-newsletter debuted in April 2010.

This newsletter provides news and information that may be of interest to large numbers of parents and community members. The new publication covers stories such as changes in district policy, new services or programs, awards and achievements. Anyone can sign up to receive it. A newsletter sign-up form is on the home page of the district website ([www.lwsd.org](http://www.lwsd.org)).





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