

2007-08 School Performance Report



Fairhaven Middle School

Bellingham Public Schools

Our School

Fairhaven Middle School provides a safe, challenging and nurturing learning environment. The input and support Fairhaven receives from staff, families and community members continues to make the education of our students a success.

We focus on identifying the individual learning needs of our students and

personalizing instruction so that every child exceeds his or her potential. We want all students to believe that going to college is possible and, as middle school students, to set their sights on a successful future. We are constantly working to improve what, and how we teach so that students experience positive transitions to high school and beyond.

E-News

As a school, we recognize the importance of communication with our students' families. To receive periodic updates about Fairhaven, you can sign up to receive our e-newsletter called the Grizzly Growl at www.bham.wednet.edu. See "E-News Registration." Enter Fairhaven as your child's school on the form. You also may choose to receive news releases, snow/emergency information and lunch menus from the district.

Principal's Welcome



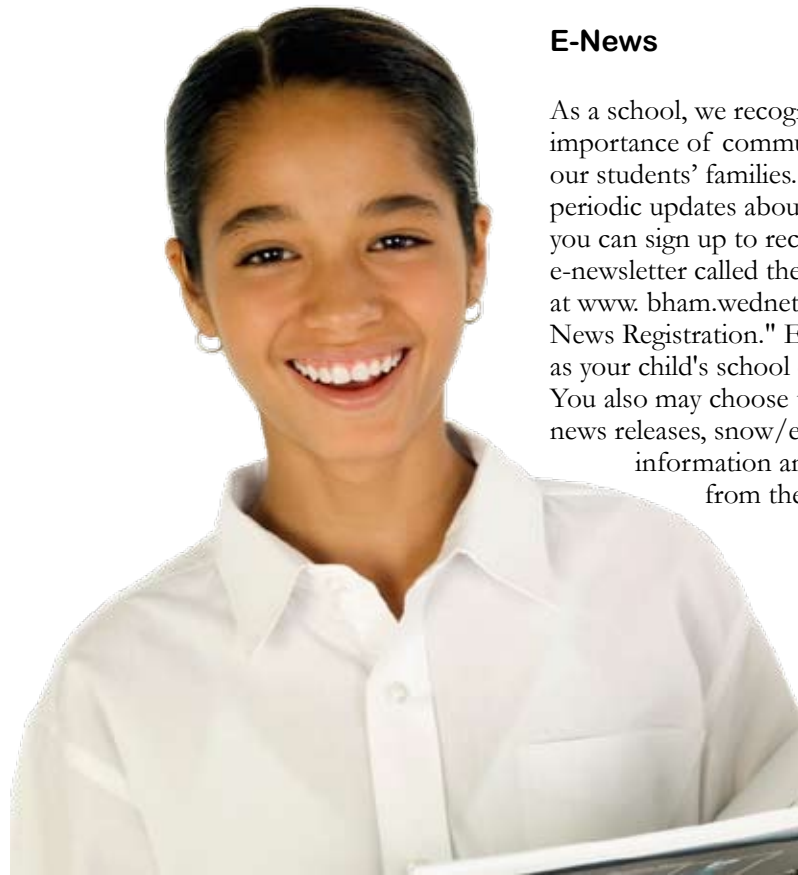
Deirdre O'Neill

It is my pleasure to share this report with the families of our school community. This report is issued to provide you with an understanding of our school improvement plan

and the progress we are making in our work. Sharing this information with you is part of the parent partnership we consider vital for improving our school.

At Fairhaven, we are entering our sixth year of creating small communities of teachers and learners. Each of these communities is named for a grizzly habitat and is comprised of core content area teachers and a common group of students. Like small neighborhoods within a bustling city, our communities provide a psychological home within the school that adolescents need to support their intellectual and interpersonal development. Teachers within each community meet weekly to coordinate and integrate curriculum, to support students and to communicate with parents.

Continued on page 2



demographics

Fairhaven Middle School

Student characteristics

	Fairhaven	Bellingham School District
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As of Oct. 1, 2007

Total Enrollment	511	10,805
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Class Size Average

Grades 6-8	25	26
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Percent American Indian/ Alaskan Native	2%	3%
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Percent Asian/ Pacific Islander	7%	7%
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Percent Black	3%	2%
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Percent Hispanic	6%	10%
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Percent White	81%	75%
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Percent Other (includes Not Provided)	1%	3%
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English Language Learners (ELL)	9	564
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Highly Capable	44	320
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Indian Education	4	98
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Title I Reading	-	503
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Special Education	47	1,309
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For the 2007-08 school year

Unexcused absences	0.4%	0.2%
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Discipline

Suspensions	64	
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Expulsions	2	
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Free and Reduced Meals (May 2008)	25%	33%
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Student to computer ratio: 4 to 1

Expenditure by pupil

In 2006-07, the per student expenditure rate was approximately \$8,469. About 72% of the district budget was spent on teaching and teaching support, well above the state average of 69%. Funding sources: 67% from state based on enrollment; 20% from local taxes supported by the maintenance and operations levy; 8% from federal; and 5% from other sources such as donations and investment earnings.

2006-07 is the latest year data is available

“ At Fairhaven, we are preparing students for active citizenship, creative expression, and notable achievement in the rapidly changing world of the 21st century. ”
Principal Deirdre O'Neill

Principal's Welcome, *continued*

Today's society and workforce has dramatically changed with the proliferation of global communications and high-speed Internet. Our task as educators is to educate all our children to think critically, to value diversity and to build knowledge of the world into their understanding of citizenship. This year, Fairhaven is piloting a full year of Spanish in eighth grade for high school credit. Global citizenry does not happen by accident. It is our vision to develop a strong language program for all of our students.

In technology, five of our classrooms are piloting the use of an Activ Board, an interactive teaching and learning tool that facilitates exchange of ideas and thinking processes, while replacing the ordinary white board.

Focus on Powerful Teaching and Learning



Our staff has a strong educational background and varied experiences that strongly qualify them as middle level instructors. We continue to identify and use successful teaching strategies in all classes. Our staff regularly gets together to reflect on instruction, curriculum and student work to further increase student learning.

Personalize Learning for College, Career and Citizenship



High expectations combined with support help prepare all middle school students for college-prep coursework in high school.

Engage Families and Community in Student Learning

Families play an important role in the lives of Fairhaven students. Families are encouraged to maintain open lines of communication with their child's teacher to reinforce education in the home. We want to help all of our families sign up for ParentConnect, a free service that allows you to log in and view your child's homework assignments, grades, transcripts, attendance, discipline records and school cafeteria choices. Please contact our school for more information about ParentConnect and how to get your log in and password.



PTSA in 2008-09

Our energetic PTSA co-presidents, Jennifer Dolese and Julie Webster, are staffing our new Parent Resource Center in Room 103. Drop by for a welcome, to get questions answered and to sign up for many volunteer opportunities. It takes all of us to make our school the best it can be!

Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)

Percent meeting or exceeding standards

	Grade 6			Grade 7			Grade 8		
	Fairhaven 2008	District 2008	State 2008	Fairhaven 2008	District 2008	State 2008	Fairhaven 2008	District 2008	State 2008
Reading	82%	77%	69%	82%	68%	63%	75%	71%	66%
Writing	—	—	—	70%	74%	70%	—	—	—
Math	64%	57%	49%	81%	57%	50%	77%	63%	52%
Science	—	—	—	—	—	—	71%	56%	48%

The WASL is a standards-based test used in Washington state to measure how students are progressing in meeting state academic standards.

The Washington State Report Card Web site is available at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>

Fairhaven's Plans to Improve Learning

At Fairhaven, we continue to make a schoolwide effort to raise the performance of each student to a high level. Technology is used as a tool to support this effort. The following highlights represent some of our accomplishments and ongoing work:

- In science, instruction is inquiry based in a hands-on lab setting. Our teachers regularly work alongside researchers at Western Washington University to analyze student learning and improve instructional practices.
- Students receive extra support in math during our extended day program. The primary curricular support, Math Masters from the Carnegie Institute, is a leveled computerized math program designed to prepare students for algebra.
- Fairhaven doubled the number of students taking high school algebra in the 2007-08 school year. This year, it is a goal that all students at Fairhaven will be enrolled in algebra. Some of our students in the Highly Capable Learners' program attend Sehome High School for advanced placement in geometry and science.
- Developing exemplary student writers at Fairhaven continues as a strong emphasis in our language arts program. Our students took first and second place in the Whatcom County Essay Contest sponsored by the Bellingham Herald. Additionally, a number of our students were also recognized for individual achievement.
- Our music program continues to be recognized as exceptional at professional adjudications. We are proud to offer music to meet each student's need including Sunrise Choir (before school), orchestra, band and Music of the World (ukulele, guitar, history of rock and roll, and Caribbean drumming).
- Students have multiple opportunities to engage in art, drama and improvisation. Fairhaven students actively participate in the school Chalk Art Festival, the Bellingham Arts Council event and the Bellingham Children's Art Walk. Our improv club members provide entertaining performances at school assemblies and before parent groups.
- Fairhaven has one of the highest performances in the state for a school with our demographics: 85 percent of seventh graders met or exceeded standard in reading on the Washington State Assessment for Learning (WASL).
- Fairhaven offers a full year of high school credit Spanish as an elective for the this school year. This supports our students toward developing a global perspective.

"Adequate Yearly Progress"

As part of the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) legislation of 2001, schools and school districts are considered to be making "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) if they meet targets in various categories, including those listed below. Academic progress in reading and math must be measured for: All Students, American Indian, Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, Special Education, Limited English, and Low Income. For 2008, state targets increased in every category, some by as much as 20 percentage points. Schools and districts must have a minimum number of students in a category before it becomes a requirement for AYP, so larger districts and schools are more likely to miss targets. Missing the target in any one category causes a school or district not to make "Adequate Yearly Progress" overall. Fairhaven made AYP in 18 of its 21 required categories. Our school did not make AYP in reading and math proficiency in the special education category and in math proficiency for low-income students. This is part of our school's Plan to Improve Learning. AYP does not measure if a student in special education makes academic progress according to his or her Individual Education Plan.

"Adequate Yearly Progress" Status			
AYP Indicators		Fairhaven 2007-08	Middle Schools in District 2007-08
Sufficient percentage of middle school students who met WASL standard	Reading	NO (Special Education only)	NO (Hispanic, Special Education and Low Income)
	Math	NO (Special Education and Low Income)	NO (Hispanic, Special Education and Low Income)
At least 95% of middle school students participated in WASL testing	Reading	yes	yes
	Math	yes	yes
No more than 1% of student absences were unexcused		yes	yes
Met AYP	Overall	no	no

The district made AYP in 50 of its 67 required categories. It did not make AYP in middle school in reading and math proficiency for students in the categories of Hispanic, special education and low income. Sanctions for not making "Adequate Yearly Progress" only affect schools and districts receiving federal Title I funding. The district does not have any Title I schools facing sanctions for the 2008-09 school year. For more information about "No Child Left Behind," visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/>

History and Facility Update

In 1967, what was formerly Fairhaven High or Southside High (1903) and Fairhaven Junior High (1937), became Fairhaven Middle School. Fairhaven was renovated in 1994-95 into the current building.

Fairhaven Middle School
110 Park Ridge Avenue
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 676-6450

<http://wwwfms.bham.wednet.edu/>

Principal: Deirdre O'Neill
Assistant Principal: Steve Rogers
Secretary: Nancy Reynolds

PTA Co-Presidents 2008-09:
Jennifer Dolese
Julie Webster

Stay informed. Register for the Grizzly
Growl and district news via
e-mail at www.bham.wednet.edu

The annual School Performance Report provides access to information on the educational programs in each school so that families and community members can make informed decisions about the schools in their district. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) also provides online access to more detailed data required by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). District and school report cards can be viewed at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>. Select "Bellingham School District" or the name of the school to view detailed student achievement and demographic information. Printed copies of the reports are available at schools, district offices and the Bellingham Public Library.



Accessibility

The district ensures that each program, service or activity, when reviewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities per the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Some of our schools or programs are not accessible. Therefore, persons needing special accommodations should contact the school principal or Student Services at (360) 676-2787.

Annual Notices

The health and safety of students and staff are paramount. The district manages vegetation and pests using a minimum of pesticides. The district uses physical, mechanical, cultural, biological and educational tactics as primary controls. Chemical controls are a last resort and the least toxic alternative is used. When pesticides are used, notification signs are posted at buildings 48 hours prior to pesticide use and for 24 hours after. Individuals wishing advance notification of pesticide use at any site may contact the Maintenance Department at the address and phone number listed below. The asbestos notification requirement is in response to the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The district has developed and maintains an asbestos management plan, including records of surveillance, training and abatement activities. Detailed reports of both pesticide use and asbestos records are available at the Maintenance Department, 4060 Bakerview Valley Road, or by calling (360) 676-6548. The Bellingham School District maintains a Phase II Permit for Western Washington, "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and State Waste Discharge General Permit for Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storms Sewers in Western Washington." Refer to the district Web site for contact information.

Kèm theo đây là giấy tờ bao gồm các chi tiết quan trọng về nhà trường của con em quý vị. Xin đưa những chi tiết này cho người nào đó có thể giải thích cho quý vị hiểu càng sớm càng tốt. Cảm ơn.

Прилагасмый документ содержит важную информацию из школы ваш его ребенка. Пожалуйста, попросите перевести вам эту информацию как можно скорее. Спасибо.

Adjunto se encuentra un documento que contiene información importante de la escuela de su hijo. Por favor solicite que le traduzcan esta información tan pronto como sea posible. Muchas gracias.

ਨਾਥੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਦੇ ਸਕੂਲ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਜਿੰਨੀ ਜਲਦੀ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ ਕਰੋ। ਧੰਨਵਾਦ।

Bellingham School District #501
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