

# Northern Heights Elementary School

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Welcome to Northern Heights Elementary. We provide a balanced, engaging and comprehensive education that ensures all students develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and perspectives required for successful citizenship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Vision

The Northern Heights' school community engages all stakeholders in learning through inquiry, critical thinking and authentic problem solving taught within a safe, nurturing learning environment. All learners participate as active members of a supportive, involved community. Individual contributions and diverse perspectives are recognized and valued. Members of our learning community develop and demonstrate positive personal characteristics, which allow them to productively contribute to a shared global society.



## Core Beliefs

**All individuals are naturally curious and desire to learn.**

**All individuals have diverse academic and social needs and strengths.**

**Students must be prepared for future independence as learners and contributing members of a global society**

**Collaboration ensures an engaging and safe environment for all learners.**

**School, family and community partnerships are vital and necessary for success.**

Northern Heights' students believe in:

- **Learning: We show it when we are our best selves as learners.**
- **Following directions**
- **Being respectful**
- **Staying on task**
- **Trying our hardest**

As students, we believe our teachers help us learn and keep us safe. We believe in education to learn all the things you need to know and get a good job.

## Principal's Message

WENDY BARRETT



I am proud to announce that Northern Heights is now designated as an International Baccalaureate Primary Years

Program (PYP) candidate school! Last year, staff and parents studied the PYP to determine its fit with our district and school goals. We also wondered how the PYP might enhance opportunities for our students. The results of our study were overwhelmingly positive, leading us to move toward adoption of the PYP at Northern Heights.

Why so much enthusiasm for the PYP? It provides students an exemplary, rigorous instructional program that develops strong academic, personal and social skills needed for their future success. Natural curiosity is nurtured through student-centered, inquiry-based learning. International-mindedness is encouraged, as children use technology to share learning with other children around the world. PYP students also learn a second world language as part of their regular studies.

I invite you to visit Northern Heights and see the PYP in action!

## DEMOGRAPHICS

### Northern Heights

Bellingham  
School  
District

Oct. 2008 Oct. 2008

#### Student characteristics

**Total Enrollment** 459 10,652

#### Class Size Average

Grades K-3 22 25  
Grades 4-5 26 25

#### American Indian/ Alaskan Native

2% 3%

#### Asian/ Pacific Islander

11% 7%

#### Black

4% 2%

#### Hispanic

9% 10%

#### White

64% 75%

#### Other

(includes not provided) 10% 3%

#### English Language Learners (ELL)

56 631

#### Highly Capable

1 298

#### Indian Education

1 87

#### Title I Reading/LAP/KIDS

- 841

#### Special Education

73 1,373

#### 2008-09 school year

Unexcused absences 0.1% 0.3%

#### Discipline

Suspensions 13  
Expulsions 0

#### Free and Reduced Meals (May 2009)

37% 36%

Student-to-computer ratio: 4 to 1

#### Expenditure per pupil

In 2007-08, the per student expenditure rate was approximately \$9,139. 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.

2007-08 is the latest year data is available

2008-09

# Highlights of Progress

## Learn

- Focused staff development on inquiry-based learning across content.
- Implemented a balanced math program at all grade levels.
- Began curriculum alignment and development of interdisciplinary units of inquiry.

## Personalize

- Provided Back on Track reading support for 45 students.
- Implemented iSucceed Math as support or enrichment for third through fifth grade students.

- Partnered with Western Washington University practicum students to provide direct instruction reading support.

## Engage

- Engaged school community in feasibility study of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program.
- Created and distributed a Primary Years Program informational DVD for parents.
- Held a community Multicultural Fair, attended by more than 700 people.



## Northern Heights Programs

- International Baccalaureate-Primary Years Program
- Spanish language instruction within the school day
- FLAN: After-school World Language Instruction: Spanish, French, Mandarin
- Back On Track Reading Program
- "We've Got Attitude" Character Education Program
- Video Technology Program and Student-Produced Newscasts
- Learning Leaders Program
- Student Leadership Team
- Community Service Opportunities
- Recess Rangers
- Fine Arts Performance Opportunities
- Sasquatch Reading Enrichment
- Allied Arts Fine Arts Enrichment
- Science Enrichment/Science Fair
- 5th Grade Strings Classes
- Northern Heights Chess Club
- Multicultural Community Fair
- Girls on the Run
- Mountain School — Grade 5

## NORTHERN HEIGHTS WASL DATA

Percentage meeting or exceeding standards

	Grade 3			Grade 4			Grade 5		
	School 2009	District 2009	State 2009	School 2009	District 2009	State 2009	School 2009	District 2009	State 2009
<b>Reading</b>	54%	70%	71%	63%	75%	74%	72%	80%	74%
<b>Writing</b>	—	—	—	49%	64%	60%	—	—	—
<b>Math</b>	43%	69%	66%	61%	60%	52%	63%	65%	62%
<b>Science</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	69%	54%	45%

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) is a standards-based test used in Washington state to measure how groups of students in the district and state are progressing in meeting state academic standards.

Please check the Washington State Report Card Web site at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us> for more information.

## Northern Heights Plan to Improve Learning, 2009-10

- Continue IB-PYP curriculum alignment and development of interdisciplinary inquiry units.
- Implement a system for ongoing assessment and monitoring of student progress.
- Further develop systems and approaches to meet diverse learning needs through Response to Intervention (RTI) and enrichment opportunities.
- Implement Spanish language instruction for grades kindergarten through five.
- Increase community understanding of and engagement in the Primary Years Program at Northern Heights.

## Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Dear Family, 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. Missing the target in many one category causes a school or district not to make “Adequate Yearly Progress” overall.

**Northern Heights made AYP in 15 of its 17 required categories for 2008-09.**

Our school did not make AYP in reading and math proficiency in the category of Special Education. This is part of our plans to improve learning.

The district made AYP in 53 of its 67 required categories. It did not make AYP in elementary for reading and math WASL for Hispanic students, students in special education, and low-income students. This is the second

consecutive year that the district overall did not make AYP, which means it is in Step 1 of School Improvement. Sanctions for not making “Adequate Yearly Progress” affect schools and districts receiving federal Title I funding. For more information about “No Child Left Behind,” visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/>



## ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS STATUS

AYP Indicators	Northern Heights 2008-09	Elementary Schools in District 2007-08
<b>Sufficient percentage of elementary students who met WASL standard</b>	<b>In Reading NO*</b> <b>In Math NO*</b> <i>*(Special Education)</i>	<b>In Reading NO*</b> <b>In Math NO*</b> <i>*(Hispanic, Special Education, Low Income)</i>
<b>At least 95% of elementary students participated in WASL testing</b>	<b>In Reading YES</b> <b>In Math YES</b>	<b>In Reading YES</b> <b>In Math YES</b>
<b>No more than 1% of students' absences were unexcused</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Met AYP</b>	<b>Overall NO</b>	<b>Overall NO</b>

## PERFORMANCE REPORT

The annual School Performance Report, required by federal and state law, provides access to information on the educational programs in each school so 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 further student achievement and demographic information. Printed copies of the reports are available at schools, district offices and the Bellingham Public Library.



## History & Facility Update

Northern Heights opened in 2002.



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.

Прилагаемый документ содержит важную информацию из школы вашего 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.

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

# eNEWS

REGISTRATION

Stay informed. Register for e-mail updates at [www.bham.wednet.edu](http://www.bham.wednet.edu). See "E-News Registration."

### Northern Heights Elementary

4000 Magrath

Bellingham, WA 98226

647-6820

<http://www.nhe.bham.wednet.edu/>

**Principal:** Wendy Barrett

**Secretary:** Linda Kirschman

**PTA President 2009-10:** Lydia Salas

**Co-Vice Presidents:** Ayume Takabe and Lynn Ringstad

**Secretary:** Nancy Hudson-Carlson

**Treasurer:** Robin Mills



1306 Dupont Street

Bellingham, WA 98225-3118

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BELLINGHAM WA  
PERMIT NO. 3