

La Center School District Annual Report

2014 - 2015



Mission Statement

The mission of the La Center School District is to create a supportive environment that empowers students to reach their fullest potential. We fulfill our mission with the partnership of families, the community and employees working together to create life-long learners who can adapt to a changing, more technologically advanced and diverse society.

2014-15 Board of Directors	
District #1	Criseda Yaw
District #2	Todd Jones
District #3	Bob Taylor
District #4	Wendy Chord
District #5	John Parsons

District & Staff Demographics

Enrollment		
October 2014 Student Count		1621
May 2015 Student Count		1621
Gender		
Male	844	52.1%
Female	777	47.9%
Race/Ethnicity (Oct. 2014)		
Hispanic / Latino of any race(s)	104	6.4%
American Indian / Alaskan Native	8	0.5%
Asian	18	1.1%
Black / African American	9	0.6%
White	1,451	89.5%
Two or More Races	31	1.9%

Teacher Information (2014-2015)	
Classroom Teachers	78
Average Years of Teacher Experience	18.7
Teachers with at least a Master's Degree	78.2%
Total number of teachers who teach core academic classes	81
% of teachers teaching with an emergency certificate	0.0%
% of teachers teaching with a conditional certificate	0.0%
Total number of core academic classes	450
ESEA Highly Qualified Teacher Information	
% of classes taught by teachers meeting ESEA highly qualified (HQ) definition	94.7%
% of classes taught by teachers who do not meet ESEA HQ definition	5.3%
% of classes in high poverty schools taught by teachers who meet ESEA HQ definition	100%
% of classes in high poverty schools taught by teachers who do not meet ESEA HQ definition	0%
% of classes in low poverty schools taught by teachers who meet ESEA HQ definition	75%
% of classes in low poverty schools taught by teachers who do not meet ESEA HQ definition	25%

Student to Teacher Ratio	
Grades K-3	23
Grades 4-5	26
Grades 6-8	20
Grades 9-12	21

Outstanding Young Educator

Congratulations to Mrs. Janice Broten, who was named as the Washington State ASCD State 'Outstanding Young Educator Award' for her endless efforts to improve student learning and for her successful leadership as the student ASB advisor.

Academic Results

Smarter Balance Assessment

Smarter Balance Assessment Results for Math, English, Science and End-of-Course Biology.

Grade Level	SBA ELA	SBA Math
3rd Grade	47.0%	54.4%
4th Grade	64.6%	62.8%
5th Grade	48.4%	34.9%
6th Grade	58.7%	45.2%
7th Grade	69.8%	54.3%
8th Grade	72.6%	44.2%
11th Grade	31.2%	13.9%

Grade Level	MSP Science
5th Grade	51.5%
8th Grade	64.6%

Grade Level *	EOC Biology
10th Grade	71.5%

[Link to full Report Card](#)

EOC Math

Subject	# of Students Tested	Percent Proficient
Algebra 1	97	61%
Geometry	20	90%

High School Honor Roll

We had 185 students named to the first semester honor roll, of which 29 students scored a perfect 4.0 GPA. Second semester we had 153 students qualify for honor roll and 43 of those students scored a perfect 4.0 GPA. To qualify for honor roll, students must have a 3.25 GPA or above.

2014-2015 GPA Honor Roll		
9 th	2.72	35%
10 th	2.46	29%
11 th	2.82	34%
12 th	2.79	24%

Administrators

Our administrators continue to eschew the old ways of ‘managing’ staff, student and building needs from behind a desk. If you want to find our administrators, then you should look for them in a classroom, on the playground or in the cafeteria where the kids are—listening, watching and learning.

Newly Identified Focus School

In the Spring of the 2013-2014 school year, we were notified that we were one of 134 newly identified focus schools in Washington. We didn’t meet AYP (adequate yearly progress) in one subgroup of students for two of the last three years. This subgroup for us is our students with disabilities, in particular in the subject of math. In response to this status, our district and middle school have responsibilities of creating and reporting our efforts towards improvement. We also have been assigned a coach to help us with our continuous school improvement plans. At the end of March, we were notified that LCMS would not be a Focus school for the 2015-16 school year, based on test scores compared to the rest of the state. This is great news!

Graduate Data

The chart below provides information about the graduates who leave high school bound for additional schooling, work, or the military. La Center High School generally has more than 60% of its graduates pursue some form of post-high school training, including four-year college, two-year college or vocational/technical school. One of our goals is to maintain a program which continues to have a relatively low dropout rate.

	Class of 2014	Class of 2015
Total Graduates	110	103
College Bound (4 Year)	32	44
College Bound (2 Year)	37	43
Vocational School	7	4
Military	12	5
Work	18	7
Misc.	9	0
Graduating	95.65%	94.17%
Dropout	0%	0.009% (1/103)

La Center Academic Programs

Our academic programs are very important to our students academic success. Programs like the ones listed below are very important in creating learning outside of and in addition to those found in the traditional classroom setting.

StoryTown

Our students continue to use the StoryTown program for literacy. StoryTown is a research-based, developmental literacy program for all of our students. It is full of high quality children's literature, as well as informational text. StoryTown includes explicit and systematic instruction in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and writing. The program provides many opportunities for practice and application.

Middle School Tutors

The middle school Educational Leadership Class gets students involved in the classroom. This group tutors students in classrooms from elementary PE to middle school choir and math. This is a structured class where middle school students work with elementary students in reading groups, science labs, math tutoring or leading small band, and choir sections. Many have been trained in the Read Naturally program. Middle school students are required to write a bi-weekly blog about their experiences. Additionally, in order to be part of this class, students are required to take a health class during the summer. Elementary teachers have greatly benefited from having the students work in their classrooms. This year there were 34 middle school tutors.

Project Success

A mentoring program set up by our counselor Kristen Krem. High school students are paired with 5 to 6 middle school students. Once a week, the high school students come down and work with their younger peers on an individual basis. During this time they check grades on Skyward, organize binders and lockers, work on specific class work, and give general support to our middle school students. We had 6 high school students working with 32 middle school students and this has been a positive experience for both age groups.

Cispus

Once again about 120 of our 6th grade students were able to attend a week of outdoor school at the Cispus Learning Center in Randall, Washington. This is always a highlight for them and an opportunity to experience real world, hands-on learning outdoors. We had 4 teachers, 13 adult volunteers and multiple high school student counselors attend to make this a safe and special event for everyone.

Academic Improvement Breakfast

On February 10, we held a celebration breakfast for 32 students and their families to note the academic improvement of these students. To qualify, students had to improve their GPA by .6 points or more from last year's second semester to this year's first semester. A very large thank you and shout-out to the Soske family, for

volunteering their time, energy and the breakfast itself for this celebration. This is at least the third year in a row they have provided this service.

Poetic Pursuits

We have published poets. Each year through our Language Arts classes, the teachers submit student poetry works for publication. ‘The Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans,’ a national competition, selected 27 of our students for this year’s publication. Poetic Power, a regional competition, selected 25 students to be published. Congratulations to all of these selected students. It’s neat to have a diverse student population to be acknowledged in this competition. Thank you to our teachers for supporting the students in this endeavor.

Art & Engineering Show

Mr. Westerberg and Mrs. Schneider combined efforts in January to display student work from each of their classes. All three grade levels were represented in this show, and it was an impressive amount of quality work on hand for parents and community members to enjoy.

Accelerated Club for Education (A.C.E.)

Our Accelerated Club for Education (A.C.E.) has continued to adapt and change in an effort to better serve the needs of our students. By working together, we were able to effectively differentiate instruction. A.C.E. is staffed with two full-time teachers, four full-time instructional assistants, and instructional assistants with classroom support hours. We also coordinated with the full-time instructional assistant for the English Language Learners program (ELL), in addition to the two full time Resource Room teachers and their assistants. We continue to strive to provide students with instruction that meets individual needs and puts them on the path to accelerated learning.

Academic Clubs/Teams

In addition to our academic programs, our students also have access to a number of academic teams that allow them to not just learn, but to compete with others, demonstrating their knowledge and gaining the confidence that comes with hard work.

Chess Team

LCHS Chess Team took 1st place for the year in the Portland Schools League and finished in a 6-way tie for 13th place out of 32 teams in the WA State Championships in Issaquah.

Math Is Cool

Students in 4th and 5th grade had the opportunity to be on the “Math Is Cool” Team. The 4th grade team competed in the mental math and individual test competitions. The 5th grade team competed in a variety of formats, including mental math, individual test, team multiple choice, team test, relays, and college bowl. Teams were coached by Mr. Peter Poppert, one of our third grade teachers. Our 5th grade team placed 4th overall at the state competition and one of our 5th grade students placed first

in the individual competition. The goals of the team have been to have fun with math, to extend time spent with math, and to offer an opportunity for students to excel academically. All of these goals were met with this activity. We had a sixth grade team represent LCMS at the Math Is Cool Masters Competition in Moses Lake, WA. This team placed second in the state in the Division 2 level.

Science Olympiad

A group of students from 3rd–5th grade participated in the Science Olympiad competition. Our Science Olympiad team placed second in the “Rocket Boat Rally” and third in the “Green Eggs Go Bam!” portions of the competition.

GeoGirls

Kalyn Flatt was chosen to be one of 16 girls in Oregon and Washington who will get to spend part of their summer exploring Mt. St. Helens with real scientists as part of the GeoGirls Team. Congratulations!

National History Bee

We had about 30 sixth grade students and about 30 seventh & eighth grade students take the first round of written exams for this competition. 5 students advanced to the regional round of this national competition. At the regional competition one of our students, Loren Brown made it to the final round of four and earned a spot at the National Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky, where he placed 65 out of 550 competitors.

Knowledge Bowl

The middle school fielded three full teams (12 students), which competed in four meets. The high school also has a Knowledge Bowl Team with 24 students participating.

Activities (Sports and Clubs)

Our students have access to a number of opportunities to grow not just in academics, but on the sports field, on the stage or by finding self-expression through music.

Sports

By far the biggest news in sports this year was the opening of the new football/soccer stadium. Volunteers donated over 3000 hours of time to help make our new sports complex a reality! Thank you to all who helped!

Middle School

We had 28 football players, 20 cross country members and 35 volleyball players participating in our fall sports program. There were 29 girls who played on 3 teams.

Wrestling fielded 9 boys and 1 girl. Boys basketball had three teams with 37 participants. Track and Field had 62 students participate.

High School

The high school had 180 students in Fall, 93 students in Winter, and 145 students in Spring who played on an athletic team.

High School Sports Highlights:

- 1st in Trico League: Girls Cross Country, Football (4th title in a row), Softball, Girls Soccer and Boys Track.
- The Boys Soccer Team were District Four, 1A Soccer Champions.
- Jeffery Mayolo placed 6th at the State Wrestling tournament and Derick Tollen was the 1A State and Clark County Wrestling Champion.
- Abby England was the 2014 Trico League MVP in softball.
- Girls Softball placed 3rd in the 1A District 4 Championships.
- 2nd in Trico League: Boys Cross Country and Boys Basketball.
- 3rd place in Trico League: Boys Golf, Boys Soccer, Girls Track and Baseball.
- The Girls Basketball Team were named Co-Champs of the Trico League.

Music & Dance

Public Performances

The K-5 Music Program featured an after school 3rd & 4th Grade Holiday Choir, 4th Grade Recorder Club, and 4th and 5th Grade Honor Choir. These groups performed at our annual 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade concerts and at the annual Christmas Bazaar. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade performed for parents in the spring. Fifth Grade students choose between band and choir as part of their music curriculum. Fifth grade band and choir both perform in winter and spring. For the 15th year running Mr. Pritchett produced our Veteran's Day Assembly along with performances by our band and choir. Our student body enjoyed the production during the school day and the evening program filled our gym once again.

Middle School Regional Band/Choir Solo/Ensemble Contest

We had over 20 band and choir students who participated in the regional solo/ensemble contest. Each performed for a judge and were given an individual or small group score. These students represented our school well and we are proud of their efforts.

High School Band and Choir

The high school had 26 students participate in band and 47 in choir.

Choir

63 students participated in the Annual Regional LCRMEA Middle School Choral Festival, achieving two number one ratings. Junior All-State Choir Auditions took

place in October. This is a prestigious group of singers who are chosen as "the best in the state." 3 of our middle school choir students made it into this group: Ashlyn Winston, Eva Dawson, and Amanda Lewis. Congratulations to them as well. The 7/8th grade choir participated in the Clark College Fall Choral Festival

Dance Team

Dance Team were the District Champions both in Show and Kick routines and placed 3rd in Pom. They finished 2nd in State with their Show Routine.

Fundraising and Community Service

Here are just a few examples of the amazing work our students, teachers, support staff and administrators are doing with and for the La Center community. In addition to the programs listed below, the La Center School District has the benefit of working with and gaining support from such groups as the Lions Club, PTO, the Booster Club, the Music Association, Boy and Girl Scouts, Casino Foundation, La Center Education Fund, Scholarship Foundation and the City of La Center (among many others). We are grateful to all of these groups for their continued support and collaborative efforts.

2014/15 Bobcat Walk/Run

In our desire to encourage healthy living and raise money for our students, we held our Third Annual Bobcat Walk/Run event on the elementary track. Our students did a phenomenal job raising over \$16,350! We use 100% of the proceeds to pay for assemblies and transportation for field trips. The money is also used for playground equipment, awards for the Bobcat Buck Stores, celebrations, and any additional student activities throughout the school year.

Doernbecher Week

Dolly sales, cookie sales and copper/silver war were in full force during our 9th Annual Doernbecher Week. The total amount fundraised throughout the week with our efforts and those of the elementary school's 4th & 5th grade classes, exceeded our goal of \$5,000, raising more than \$7,200.

Leos Club

In their second year, this group of students performed community service both in and outside of school. They completed their first project, which was to finish the memorial garden in the courtyard in honor of Cody Sherrell. A lovely opening ceremony was held and was very meaningful to Cody's family and friends.

Stuff the Bus

La Center Elementary, Middle and High School in collaboration with KWRL presented our first "Stuff the Bus" Competition during the week of November 17, 2014. Each school stuffed a KWRL bus in hopes of collecting the most food in the district.

Non-perishable items collected will benefit Share and the Clark County Food Bank. Our middle school alone collected 5,359 pounds, which was the largest single donation from a school for the Share organization.

We Are Silent Campaign

During leadership class, Abby Hollopetter and Abby Morgan were inspired to take part in Free the Children's We Are Silent Campaign, which raises awareness and money for different causes around the world where individuals are silenced due to gender, poverty, lack of medical care/nutrition, etc. In total our students raised \$1,408 for "Free the Children."

Backpack Program

The goal of the Jumpstart Backpack Program is to conduct a school readiness day for low-income students and families in La Center schools, grades K-12. This year the project assisted low-income families by providing 187 students a free backpack filled with school supplies.

Bobcat Ambassadors

The Bobcat Ambassador Program is designed to introduce 4th and 5th grade students to a school and community service process that will encourage them to pursue student government activities and community service in middle and high school.

Family Involvement

Parent Math Night

Our math department held their monthly parent night to assist parents with the technology available in conjunction with our newly adopted math materials. In January, we had seven new parents attend, and they were appreciative of the opportunity to learn how to help their students.

Watch D.O.G.S.

Watch D.O.G.S. is a nationally recognized, innovative program focusing on the prevention of violence in our schools by using the positive influence of fathers and father figures as role models. Watch D.O.G.S. are involved in many activities that include reading, working with students, eating with children at lunch, playing at recess, watching school entrances and hallways, assisting at official crosswalks, mentoring students, and other assigned activities. It began at La Center Elementary in April of 2011. For the 2014/15 school year we had 15 Watch DOGS register and many of them spent at least one school day on campus as a Watch DOG. Several spent a day or two every month volunteering their services to the elementary school. The volunteers have consisted of dads, granddads, stepfathers, uncles and/or community volunteers who don't have children in our school. We have a pizza launch meeting at the beginning of each school year.

Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO)

Our PTO is very active and responsible for many extra events for the students at La Center Elementary. This group of parents and teachers spend countless hours to bring exciting opportunities and programs to our school and community. Thanks to everyone that has helped provide some of the following activities:

- **Tea & Tissues** – Greeting the parents of Kindergarten students the first day of school helps welcome parents to the school. Parents meet in the cafeteria for tea/coffee and goodies while socializing with other parents.
- **Fall Carnival**– The Fall Carnival offers fun and games for all ages.
- **Holiday Shop** – The shop is open to students to buy gifts for their family and friends during the holiday season. Students learn to budget their money and spend wisely.
- **Scholastic Book Fairs** – We love reading and the PTO presents the Scholastic Book Fair each year, giving students the opportunity to purchase their favorite books. Parents also check out our teacher’s wish lists and some purchase the books requested. Students in all classrooms benefit from this event. Book fairs are held in the Fall and in Spring.
- **Field Day** – Students, volunteers and teachers enjoy this day of fun, water-filled activities. Some of the things that the PTO has purchased or provided funds to purchase include: the climbing wall, elementary track, books, PE equipment, laminate, charts for classrooms, paper, headphones for Read Naturally, playground equipment, memory cards, storage bins for classrooms, a digital thermometer and a xylophone.

FINANCIAL DATA

	Per Student Amounts	Percent
Total Revenues	14,330,971.89	100%
State	10,913,314.58	76%
Federal	331,315.43	2%
Local Tax	2,619,056.17	18%
Other	467,285.71	3%
Total Expenditures	9,316.69	100%
Teaching	5,690.06	61%
School Level Admin	1,012.97	11%
Maint/Util/Insurance	925.77	10%
Food Ser/Pupil Trans.	888.85	10%
District Level Admin	311.46	3%
Libraries & Technology	280.60	3%
Extra-Curricular	206.99	2%

More Details

More detailed information is available by following the links listed below:

State Test Scores & District Report Card: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>

2014-2015 School Year Revenue Analysis: www.lacenterschools.org

2014-2015 School Year Expenditure Analysis: www.lacenterschools.org

2014-2015 Annual Reports by School: www.lacenterschools.org and click on the specific school of your choice (i.e. High School, Middle School, Elementary School)

Strategies for School Improvement

The biggest upcoming change for the 2015-2016 school year involves La Center's decision to bring Special Education back in-house instead of contracting with the ESD for Special Education Services. 47 new staff members will be hired, most of whom are already working with our students and will cross-walk from ESD to becoming La Center employees. It is our hope that this move will provide new opportunities for all of our students to better serve our special education population.

Additionally, we continue to analyze MSP data to determine how we can continue to improve our ability to meet our annual yearly progress (AYP) goals. Our removal from the Focus Schools list demonstrates our commitment to continual improvement. These improvements will continue with the goal of every student reaching their fullest potential.