

Annual Report for La Center Middle School 2008-2009

Our School...

La Center Middle School, serving students in grades six through eight, shares a 17-acre campus with La Center Elementary. Seen as a hub for the community, the facilities are consistently used after school, in the evenings, and on weekends by various local groups. Several local youth organizations meet at the school on a regular basis. Additionally, the La Center Community Education Program provides adult and youth activities at our facility. For information on any of these programs, please contact the Middle School or district offices.

Condition of the Building

The La Center Middle School building was originally built as La Center High School in 1961. In July of 2003, the new construction and modernization project approved by the voters began. With the completion of the project in October, 2004, students, staff and parents now have use of a modern facility for the educational and community needs. Student and staff security was an important aspect of the project design that included 36,000 square feet of new construction, and modernization of 71,000 square feet of existing structures.

Parent and Community Involvement

LCMS is grateful for the tremendous parent support that we receive every year. Your feedback and assistance is very important to us. If you are interested in volunteering or being added to Mr. Cooke's email list, please email him at dcooke@lcsd.k12.wa.us. Mr. Cooke will send via email volunteering opportunities, monthly school updates and surveys regarding current school concerns.

School Improvement Goals 2009-2010

- * Improve student, parent and teacher communication
- * Develop Professional Learning Communities at LCMS with the goal to improve teacher instruction
- * Improve educational opportunities for all students

Standardized Tests

The Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) is administered each year to all students in late April/early May. Below are the percentages of students who met the standards in each of the tested areas:

6th Grade		State
Reading	73.8%	72%
Math	49.2%	50.9%

7th Grade

Reading	70.1%	59.3%
Writing	74.4%	69.7%
Math	56.4%	51.8%

8th Grade

Reading	81%	67.5%
Math	52.9%	50.8%
Science	68.6%	51.1%

2008-09 Highlights

Student Accomplishments

- In March LCMS recognized students who showed significant improvement in their GPA with the inaugural Academic Improvement Award Breakfast. Students were honored if their GPA improved by .75. Thirty students in the seventh and eighth grade accomplished this difficult feat. Thank you to the Soske family for sponsoring and hosting this event.
- The Hawk Band Program had another successful year. Mr. Calabrese had the highest number of students auditioning for the State Honor Band. Three students made the State Honor Band. Congratulations to Sayo Littler, Gabe Bunker and Josh McNeal for achieving their tremendous accomplishments. The band students also performed at the middle school ensemble at the Vancouver School of the Arts and Academics where sixteen students received a superior rating from the judges.
- The Choir students excelled under the direction of Mrs. Slinkard. In March, eighteen choir students participated in the Lower Columbia River Music Educators Association Solo Ensemble Contest. All received scores of 2 or 1 with 1 being the highest score. Also in March, the students sang at the LCRMEA choir festival at Cascade Middle School. The choir sang 3 songs for two judges. The songs were in English, Hebrew and Zambian. The students also sang a cappella.
- The Honor Society held a food and clothes drive for the Safe Choice Domestic Violence Shelter in Vancouver. The students also got to deliver the items, which was a worth while experience for them.
- The students of La Center Middle, under the coordination of the ASB, were able to raise over \$5,000 for Doernbecher Childrens Hospital with their penny drive. It was a fun week with spirit activities such as theme dress days and a dance. As a result of raising \$5,000 Mr. Cooke had to spend the day dressed up as Batman. This included a midday run down town.

- The Leadership students volunteered at the Battle Ground Rehabilitation Center. They made crafts, played games and read to the residents. This activity was coordinated by 8th grade student, Heather Haasl.
- This year LCMS held an empathy assembly to address student bullying. Students heard stories about their peers and teachers who had experienced harassment. This was followed by the Mix-It-Up assembly where students sat with different peers at lunchtime to get to know others at their school.
- Mrs. Den Boer and the STARS students hosted a Health Fair in our gym in May. Students were exposed to opportunities to improve their health and fitness and be educated on the effects of alcohol and tobacco. Twenty vendors set up booths at the fair. LCMS would also like to thank the Lions Club for donating \$500 to the fair.
- There were twenty two acts at this year's talent show, which was a record, ranging from singing, guitar and piano solos, comedy and superior 'Guitar Hero' playing. Thanks to Mrs. Slinkard for organizing this fun event. It was impressive to see the courage shown by students to perform in front of the entire school.
- Fifty seven students in Mrs. Cooke's class had their poems published in the book, "A Celebration of Poets." The book is available in the office if any of you would like to read it.
- LCMS hosted the Clark County Middle Level Leadership Conference in February. This was a great honor to be chosen as host and our students rose to the challenge. Thirteen different schools from Clark County attended the event. As we were only allowed to send 12 delegates to our own conference, we sent another delegate the next day to Camas for the same conference.
- Students came out to represent the blue and white in droves this year for athletics. LCMS had four teams in boys and girls basketball. Track had 77 students who competed the entire season. All of our teams made us proud this year. Some of the highlights were:
 - The 7th grade girls' basketball team's undefeated season.
 - The Wrestling program finished fourth at Districts. Josh McNeal and Jared Huddleston won their weight class.
 - The track team won a couple of meets and performed admirably at District.
- LCMS had over 430 people attend our Welcome Back BBQ. Our two parent teacher conferences were also well attended. Our first conference brought in parents of 220 students. In March LCMS had its inaugural Student Led

Conference. Our students did a great job for never having done them before. It showed us that they worked hard this year and reflected on their experiences. There is nothing more satisfying than watching students share their success, future goals and address their concerns in a mature fashion. Parents were very supportive of the conferences with 98% of the students having a parent or guardian in attendance.

- This year LCMS made some adjustments in our advisory activities. We added Navigation 101 to our curriculum which focuses on goal setting and high school and career planning. The students responded well to the activities as they saw the benefit of the lesson.
- Future 6th graders had their first real experience of life in middle school with our annual Moving Up Day. On this day 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade all move up a grade level for an afternoon. I was impressed by how the 5th graders and the 8th graders adjusted to their new environments.
- The students enjoyed the new classroom opportunities this year. We included keyboarding for all 6th graders and as a 7/8 elective. Students in the seventh and eighth grades were able to experience a variety of curriculum in their High School Exploration class. They also received their Washington State History credit in this class.

Staff Achievements

- A large surge in 6th grade students led to a complete change of the schedule in October. Mrs. Muirden was hired to teach Social Studies and other teachers assignments were adjusted to get class sizes back to a more manageable level. Staff and students did a great job adjusting to the new schedule.
- One of the goals of the La Center Middle School staff was to observe each other's classroom more in order to improve collegiality among each other. Mrs. Cooke and Mrs. Broten were instructional coaches and each teacher was involved in observations at least three times, whether they were being observed or were the observer. The Building Leadership Team went one step further and did lesson studies. The team designed a lesson and one teacher taught the lesson twice. After each lesson valuable feedback was given to the teacher and lessons were modified with amazing results. Thanks to Mrs. Austad, Mr. Holland and Mr. Shucka for volunteering their time.
- Mrs. Broten was selected to participate in the Reading Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program (WCAP). She was part of a state wide committee that reviewed and wrote new test questions for next year's state testing. Mr. Shucka and Mrs. Austad were chosen to do Item Writing for the upcoming Measurements of Student Progress in June.

- The GEMS guide (Space Science Curriculum) that Mrs. Austad and Mrs. Schneider field tested a few years ago was published and they are shown in the credits.
- Mrs. Schneider attended a reception at the Governor's Mansion honoring her nomination as one of the three Science nominees for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching (PAEMST).
- This year LCMS has been involved in the GK-12 Science grant. We had two Fellows from WSU Vancouver, Dan Crowther and Jen Blane, working alongside Mrs. Schneider and Mr. Ecklund. The goal of this partnership is to integrate real world science experiences into the Science curriculum. Mr. Ecklund attended the GK-12 science conference in Washington DC. The conference focused on integrating research into the science curriculum. The culminating project at the end of the year for the GK-12 Grant was at WSU Vancouver. La Center Students presented posters and activities highlighting work with the GK-12 Fellows. The students displayed posters at WSUV and were able to tour the environmental education department on campus. Students in Mrs. Schneider's and Mr. Ecklund's classes have been involved in the project all year.
- The Veteran's Day assembly was a fitting tribute to the sacrifices made by our armed forces. Mr. Pritchett, Mrs. Slinkard, Mr. Calabrese and the students put on a wonderful performance for our students, military guests and community members.
- Mrs. Broten attended the Washington Activities Coordinators Association Leadership Conference in Vancouver in March. She learned a great deal about different leadership programs and the research behind leadership in Middle and High School.

Professional Staff

This year we welcomed three new teachers to our staff. Ms. Tyrrell taught PE and Health to all three grade levels. Mrs. Whelchel joined our sixth grade team as the new Language Arts teacher. Mrs. Muirden was Mrs. Cooke's long term substitute teacher while she was on maternity leave. When Mrs. Cooke returned, Mrs. Muirden became our new 6th grade Social Studies and Keyboarding teacher to meet the unexpected growth in the 6th grade.

La Center Middle School Staff Roster

Mr. Cooke	Principal
Mrs. Austad	6 th Grade Math
Mrs. Brightbill	7 th /8 th Rdg, 6 th /7 th /8 th Study Skills/PE
Mrs. Broten	8 th Gr Language/Leadership
Mr. Brothers	7 th Grade Social Studies
Mrs. Brown	Maintenance

Mr. Calabrese
Mrs. Calnan
Mrs. Cooke
Mrs. Cripe
Mr. Ecklund
Mr. Frucci
Mrs. Gaston
Mrs. Hantho
Mrs. Hendrix
Mr. Holland
Mr. Juneau
Mrs. Moore
Mrs. Muirden
Ms. Peterson
Mr. Pritchett
Mrs. Richards
Mrs. Schneider
Mr. Shucka
Mrs. Shufeldt
Mrs. Slinkard
Mr. Sutton
Mr. Totten
Ms. Tyrrell
Mr. Westerberg
Mrs. Whelchel

Band
Library
7th Grade Language Arts
8th Grade Science
7th Grade Science
Athletic Director
Resource Room Aide
Aide
Maintenance
8th Grade Math
Maintenance
Aide
6th Social Studies/Keyboarding
Assistant Secretary
8th Grade History
Secretary
6th Grade Science
7th /8th Grade Math
Aide
Choir/Reading/Drama
Resource Room
P.E./Health 7th/8th
6th/7th/8th P.E.
6th Grade Lang.Arts/Soc.Studies
6th Lang. Arts/H.S. Explorations